

'Nervous' Nida aide flunks NBI lie test

STORY
IN METRO,
PAGE A21

15

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'Plain Bill,' Baguio's antique Santa

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A "genuine" white-bearded Santa Claus will bring Yuletide cheer to this mountain resort city
PLAIN/A16



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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

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★

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8 SECTIONS

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TODAY
IN THE

The tragic life
and death of
Maria Teresa
Carlson

VJ turned TV
kontrabida
Belinda Pano



CARLSON

No plan to oust Danding



BEYOND the spiffy hairstyle and the understated makeup, President Macapagal's beauty secret is her friendship with the Lord.

VALHANDUMON

Gov't to take 2nd look at Kirin deal

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had no intention of replacing businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. as San Miguel Corp. chair and chief executive even after the Supreme Court had given

back control of the food and beverage giant to the government.

In her weekly TV program, however, Ms Macapagal said she would replace the five government nominees appointed by ousted President Joseph Estrada to the 15-member SMC board.

"That is what I wanted, even months ago," she replied when asked if she had plans of appointing her own nominees to the SMC board.

After the program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," Palace reporters asked the President whether she intended to replace Cojuangco. Ms Macapagal said "no."

NO/A17

Sin greets Muslims on Eid'l Fitr

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday greeted the Muslim community on the occasion of Eid'l Fitr and urged its members to engage in continuing dialogue with Catholics to bring about "a more humane and compassionate world."

In a message issued to mark the end today of the Muslim fasting period of Ramadan, Sin extended the friendship of Catholics as well as wishes for peace and prosperity. He also noted that monotheistic religions must provide the world "a cogent foundation" not only for "living truly faith-filled lives" but also "continued hope for a brighter future" for all peoples.

"This year must be particularly joyous to you as a religious people since for the first time, the national government has finally acknowledged the end of your period of purification as a national holiday," Sin said. "Truly, our nation will benefit from a reflective consideration of the immense relevance of your religious feasts—celebrations that enhance your resolve to be closer

SIN/A16

Fasting of the rich for feasting of poor

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

HOPE will be the subject of homilies when the traditional nine-day "Simbang Gabi" begins today to mark the official start of the Christmas season.

Bishop Hernando Coronel, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, noted yesterday that despite the season, the economic downturn and the worrisome peace and order situation had driven Filipinos to "embrace gloom and doom."

Thus, he said, the priests' homilies would dwell on "Christ as the light of the world, the source of hope."

Coronel said that in these days of hardship and uncertainty over the future, it was important for the people to put their full trust in God.

"We share what the people feel," he said of the growing pessimism here and abroad.

Still, he said, people could lift their spirits by sharing their time and resources with those in dire need.

"Nobody is so poor that he can't

FASTING/A16

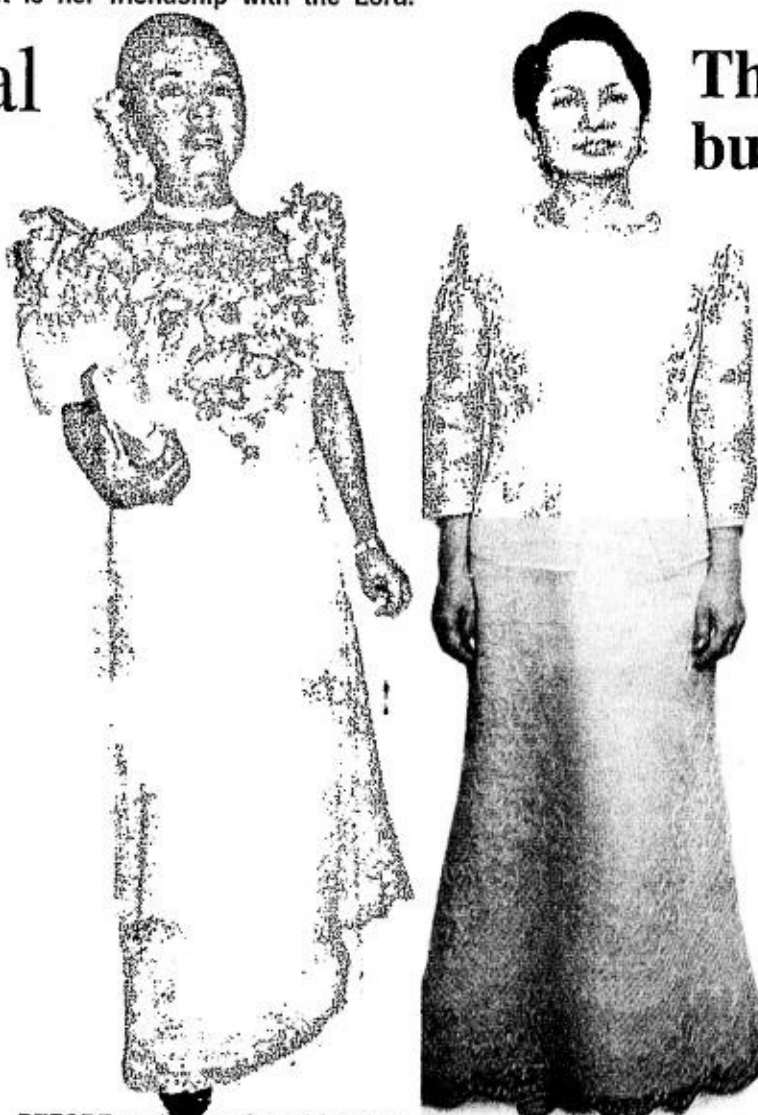
Childhood tragedies molds a heroine

BLANCHE S. RIVERA

AT 15, Aga Salah was an extraordinarily brave, even foolish, Muslim teenager looking after the women and children in an evacuation camp in General Santos City. She was a child of war and a survivor of the genocide in Mindanao during the martial law years.

Educated and determined, she has taken it upon herself to gather anxious wives whose husbands had been seized by the military. Together, they would make inquiries in military camps, fetch arrested men to return to their families, and in some tragic cases, bring home the dead.

Now 38 and the wife of a Japanese researcher, Aga Salah Nagase



BEFORE and after the makeover: Top-heavy inaugural gown overwhelmed the petite vice president in 1998. As President, she wears elegance sans clutter. EDWIN BACASMAS

The glow is godly; but stylists help

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
Lifestyle sub-section editor

FROM frumpy, clueless dresser, she gradually transformed into a polished and businesslike chief executive. While 54-year-old President Macapagal-Arroyo attributes her youthful glow to her intense faith in God, she also gets help from a small group of professionals to style her.

In the past, her drab and busy outfits made her look mousy. Designers have now created classic, pared-down designs in good cut and fabric to let her political and economic savvy shine through.

The hair and makeup were softened to project a sympathetic and fresh personality. The makeover was essential to doing business with business and political leaders and other heads of state.

"I had to present a good face of the country. It's part of my job," she said.

It has become common knowledge that Ms Macapagal has never been interested in fashion. She has made it clear that she's not out to make a style statement or draw attention to her looks. She only wants to look the part of a president whose priority is the state of the nation.

THE GLOW/A16

is still looking after wives and mothers, making sure families stay together despite vast differences in culture and the uncertainties of living in a foreign land.

Through her volunteer work as counselor and organizer of the first all-Filipino women's support group in Kawaguchi, the quiet and unassuming lady is once again empow-

ering Filipino women, this time in Japan, a land richer, more developed than Mindanao, but equally hostile to the plight of her kind.

Nagase, a devout Muslim who had grown up in a Muslim-Christian environment, is among this year's three recipients of the Bagong Bayani Award for the Asia-Pacific region.

She was in Manila recently to

discuss the plight of overseas workers and refugees in the face of globalization and rampant rights violation during the international migrant workers' conference initiated by Migrant International.

Nagase's need for a familiar face speaking in the familiar tongue started the Filipino women's group

CHILDHOOD/A16

Second FRONT PAGE



'JUST AROUND THE CORNER'

Hostages released soon, says military



HOSTAGE HUNT—An Air Force helicopter hovers over a supply base in Basilan in preparation of a final push to rescue three hostages held by Abu Sayyaf.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Military commanders expressed optimism Saturday they will soon rescue an American couple and a Filipino nurse held hostage by the extremist Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan.

"The accomplishment of the rescue mission is just around the corner," said Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu. Cimatu visited frontline troops in Basilan, giving yellow ribbons to soldiers in anticipation of any rescue of American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap of Basilan.

"The yellow ribbon will be a symbol that somebody up there, the hostages are wanting to go home and what else is better for this commitment of the Filipino soldiers than to rescue the hostages and at the same time destroy the enemy," Cimatu said. The ribbons adorned the uniforms and rifle barrels.

Cimatu said a military helicopter and a medical team are on standby to take the hostages from Basilan to Zamboanga where a jet would fly them to Manila.

Cimatu earlier told commanders to rescue the hostages by Sunday, but later said the date was just an "inspirational goal" to end more than six

months of operations in the Basilan jungles in time for Christmas.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, the army field commander in Basilan, said "the deadline is very realistic."

Esperon said yesterday it had surrounded a 15-square-kilometer area where Abu Sayyaf kidnappers are holding their hostages. He said the military strategy was forcing the kidnappers to move their hostages from place to place.

"We are constricting an area of 15 square kilometers where the rebels are believed to be holding out. Anytime, there could be an encounter in that area," Esperon said as he visited troops hunting the Abu Sayyaf.

In handcuffs

Esperon quoted intelligence reports as saying that Martin Burnham was being held in handcuffs as he was moved around. However, he would not give details on the condition of the two Americans.

Captured Abu Sayyaf members were helping to lead the military to their former comrades, Esperon added.

He said troops are concentrating on pursuing about 80 Abu Sayyaf gunmen, divided into two groups—one guarding the hostages and the other providing them a "security blanket."

Cimatu said the safety of the hostage is the top concern.

"Had it not been for the safety of the hostages, we could have wiped them out," he said.

Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said a group of US soldiers that visited Zamboanga Friday left later in the day.

Servando said the 9-member team, led by US Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the Special Operations Command based in Hawaii, was on a follow-up visit to prepare for the training of a local special forces unit to pursue the Abu Sayyaf.

He said training could start January. Last week, a 19-man US team also visited Zamboanga to discuss the training of a second Light Reaction Company with Philippine military commanders.

Members of the first Light Reaction Co. trained by US experts killed 11 guerrillas and captured one in a clash last week in which two soldiers were wounded.

Philippine and US officials have said no US ground troops will be involved in combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

More than 7,000 soldiers are scouring Basilan's jungle-covered mountains for the three hostages, the last of scores taken in a kidnapping spree that began late May. Most hostages were released or escaped, but others have been beheaded, including Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California.

The Abu Sayyaf claims to be fighting for Muslim independence but the government calls them mere bandits.

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Indon minister coming to take up Misuari fate

INDONESIA Foreign Minister Nur Hassan Wirajuda, representing the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), will visit the Philippines next week over the case of detained renegade Muslim leader Nur Misuari, it was announced yesterday.

Vice President and concurrent Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona said Wirajuda would visit on Dec. 20 as chairman of the OIC's Committee of Eight which is monitoring the 1996 peace accord between the government and Misuari's former Muslim separatist Moro National Liberation Front.

He is due to meet with President Macapagal Arroyo on the case of Misuari who was governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao until he allegedly led his armed followers in a short-lived revolt in Jolo on Nov. 19 in an apparent attempt to stop elections to choose his replacement.

Misuari is being detained in Malaysia after entering that country illegally while fleeing his failed revolt.

However Malaysia has said he must be repatriated before Dec. 24 or Misuari will be allowed to go free.

In her weekly radio address earlier, Ms Macapagal said she considered Misuari a threat to national security and that he would have to face rebellion charges at home.

However, she said the government was still open to "reconciliation" with Misuari's armed followers in this country who were left behind by their leader.

A group of Misuari followers seized more than 100 hostages in Zamboanga City in late-November to get safe passage out of the city and are now nego-

tiating to lay down their arms. Other armed followers of Misuari continued to harass government positions in Jolo, attacking a town hall earlier this week.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta decried the reported plan of the government to hand over Misuari to a third country.

Oreta said Misuari should instead be brought home from Malaysia to face trial for supposed rebellion and graft charges, to demonstrate the country's resolve to neutralize threats to national stability.

She said that this third-country scenario for Misuari was tantamount to granting him political asylum and allowing him to go scot-free.

She said the Misuari problem now hounding Malacañang could have been avoided if only the government had steered clear of a "wishy-washy" stance and instead acted resolutely in having him repatriated.

"If Malacañang is bent on having Misuari declared a terrorist, then the option of turning him over to a third country, as what recent reports show, should be out of the picture," Oreta said.

She stressed that a third-country option may be misconstrued as a weak response by the in its battle against crime and terrorism.

Reports quoting Malacañang sources said that the third-country option surfaced after the military said it wanted to keep Misuari out of the country because he was considered a national security threat.

Misuari reportedly still commands a large following among MNLF rebels.

APF

No to SSS, GSIS hike

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo rejected a proposal to raise member contributions of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

She said employees already had too many pay deductions.

"I personally don't (agree)," Ms Macapagal said in her weekly TV program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

"The people are already saddled with too many deductions in their salaries," she added.

The SSS had been saying it wants to increase contributions due to higher operational costs.

The GSIS so far has not announced similar plans.

Ms Macapagal said that if the reason was that SSS was losing money, the SSS management should find other ways to raise funds.

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SC tells Sandigan to proceed with Imelda trial

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court has ordered the Sandiganbayan to finish hearing in six months five criminal complaints against Imelda Marcos, after the high court dismissed the former first lady's petition seeking an end to the prosecution of the cases.

In dismissing Mrs. Marcos' petition, the SC First Division also ordered the Sandiganbayan to come up with a judgment in the cases no later than three months after the six-month period.

The SC thus upheld the Sandiganbayan's earlier decision junking the motions to quash and a motion for reconsideration filed by the former first lady in the criminal cases against her.

The SC said the anti-graft court did not commit grave abuse of discretion when it denied Mrs. Marcos' motions to quash the five informations (complaints) against her.

"The Sandiganbayan amply traversed the grounds relied upon by petitioner in her motions to quash, and squarely refuted the same," said the resolution dated Dec. 12.

The SC said the denial of a motion to quash was an "interlocutory order" and could not be the subject of review by certiorari unless it is clearly shown that the court acted without jurisdiction or with grave abuse of discretion.

"The proper remedy is to proceed to trial and in case of an adverse judgment, to appeal therefrom. The remedies of appeal and certiorari are mutually exclusive and not alternative or successive," the SC said.

The Sandiganbayan had suspended trial proceedings pending the decision on Mrs. Marcos' petition with the SC. "The Sandiganbayan must finish the trial of the cases within six months from notice of this resolution, and decide the cases within three months from submission," the SC said.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday the cases involved criminal acts allegedly committed by Mrs. Marcos when she was minister of human settlements during the martial law regime.

In one of the cases, Mrs. Marcos was alleged to have used the funds of her office to invest in the Asian Reliability Corp.

Canadian minister to visit RP, Thailand

OTTAWA—Canada's Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific, Rey Pagtakhan, will visit Thailand and the Philippines next week, his office announced Friday.

From Sunday to Wednesday, Pagtakhan will meet in Bangkok with Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Gen. Chavilit Yongchaiyudh, as well as Khun Apinan Pavanarit, the acting permanent secretary in the Thai foreign ministry.

Pagtakhan, who was born in the Philippines, will then travel to Manila where he will meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other senior politicians and officials.

AFP

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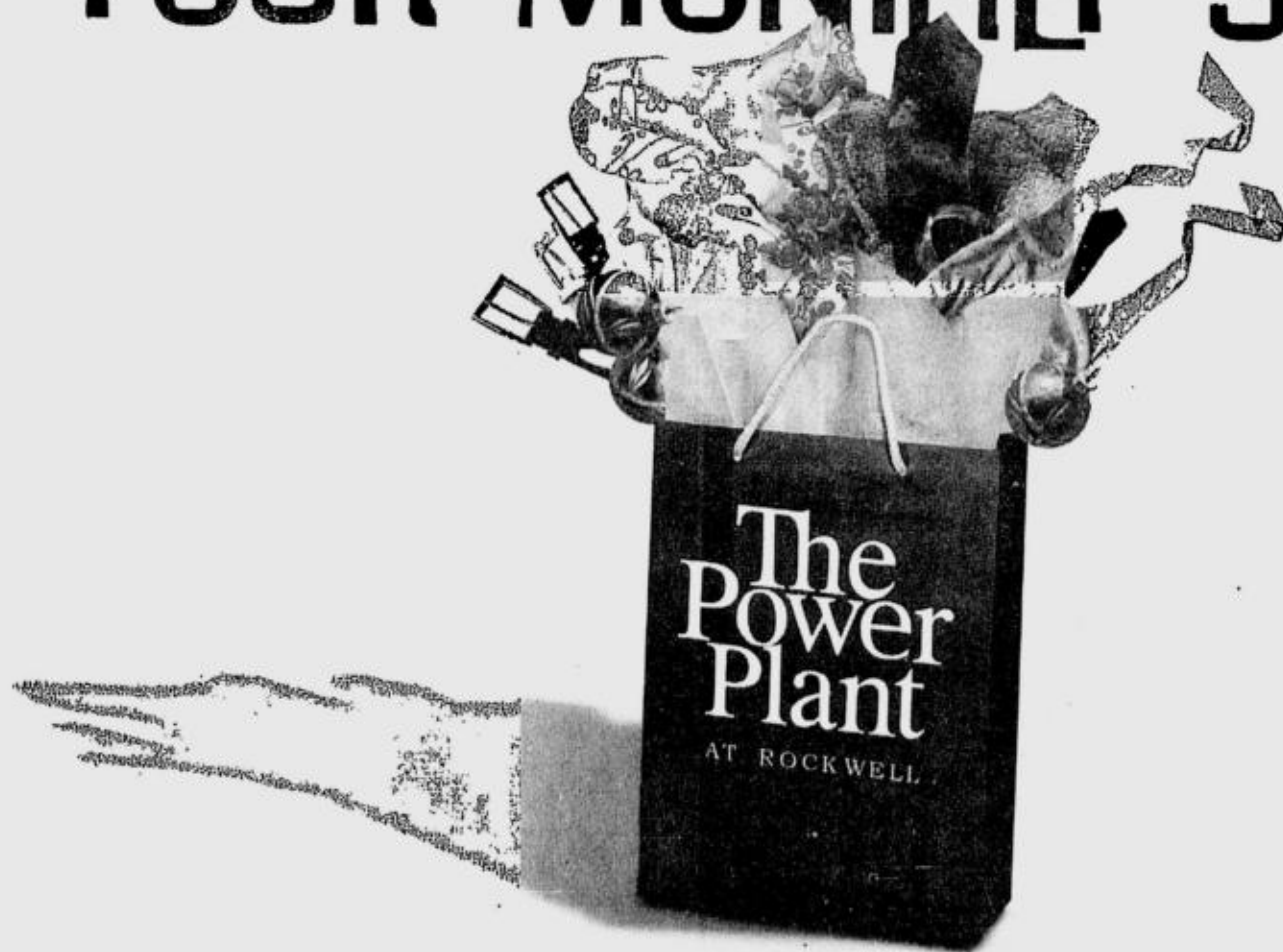
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'Dishonest' customs official still around

OFFICIALS and employees of the Bureau of Customs and an importers' group have scored the Ombudsman's Office for failing to carry out its own order dismissing from the service a customs official who was found to have falsified his academic credentials.

In addition, the Philippine Chamber of Importers Inc. (PCII) filed a complaint against Ombudsman administrative and adjudication bureau director Susan Guillermo and several others for "abuse of authority" and "ignorance of the law."

In the complaint dated Nov. 27, PCCI president George Agregado charged Guillermo with sitting on Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's order dismissing customs enforcement and security service director Virgilio Danao, who was found to have presented fake school records to get into the government service.

Danao was found guilty of dishonesty and Desierto ordered him

dismissed from the bureau on Oct. 1. Agregado said it has been three months and Guillermo has yet to act on Danao's motion for reconsideration, which the latter filed on Oct. 5.

For her inaction on the matter, Agregado said Guillermo has violated Republic Act 6770, the law creating the Office of the Ombudsman which says that "all provisional orders of the Ombudsman are immediately effective and mandatory."

The law also says a "motion for reconsideration shall be resolved within three days of filing."

"The actuations of (Guillermo) are symptomatic of the cancer that permeates the government bureaucracy," Agregado said.

Concerned customs personnel said they want President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into the matter, especially after insinuations that Danao's "untouchability" might be due to his being a top official of the Iglesia ni Cristo.

Pimentel bucks budget cut

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is opposed to the move of Sen. John Osmeña to slash by P13.9 billion next year's P781-billion proposed national budget.

Pimentel said he will try to persuade Osmeña, chair of the Senate committee on finance, and other senators to keep the budget reduction at a more reasonable level and to restore funds unjustifiably withdrawn or scrapped from the appropriations of certain agencies and projects.

Pimentel said he saw no reason for Osmeña's recommendation that the P10 billion allocated for the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the P900 million for the holding of barangay elections in May 2002 be scrapped.

Pimentel said the AFP needs the money badly to upgrade its weapons and equipment, particularly at this time when (insurgencies) are on the rise.

"The nation relies on the AFP to fight and neutralize these security threats," Pimentel said.

Pimentel pointed out that the modernization of the AFP, as embodied in a law enacted in 1995, has suffered inordinate delays because of the government's difficulty in allocating the necessary funds.

"The allocation of the P10 billion was a big shot in the arm for the military," he said. "It



PIMENTEL

would be very discouraging and demoralizing for our fighting troops if we suddenly scrapped those funds."

In opposing the deletion of the P900-million

allocation for next year's barangay polls, Pimentel said it is the responsibility of Malacañang and Congress to provide funding for electoral exercises as mandated by existing laws.

By not allocating funds for the barangay elections, Osmeña is in effect indirectly amending the Local Government Code, which provides for the holding of such political exercises, Pimentel said.

Pimentel said the P900 million was only half of the P1.8 billion originally requested by the Commission on Elections to hold the polls.

Also on the budget, Sen. Edgardo Angara has asked the government to dissolve offices with overlapping and redundant functions so their funds could be channeled to vital government spending.

Angara said this could be done without displacing any government employee since the personnel affected could be taken in by the agencies that would survive the restructuring.

"Several agencies of government have lost their relevance and sense of mission," he said. "These could be dissolved so the government could use the money for job-creating and productivity-enhancement programs."

Angara also said the review of what offices to dissolve could start with the agencies under the Office of the President.

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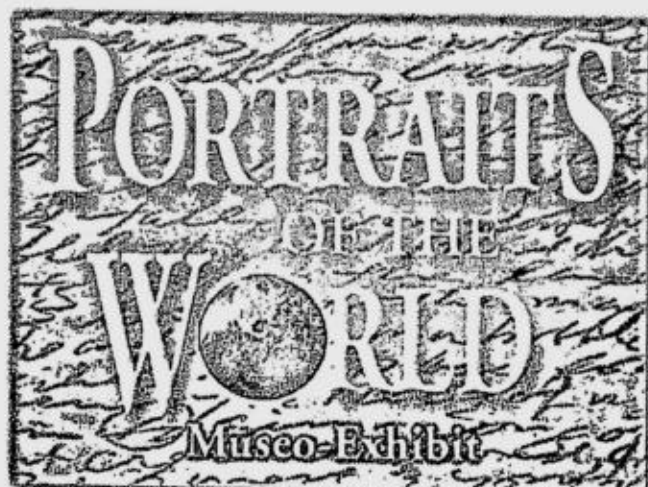


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Court stops takeover of ARMM gov

COTABATO CITY—A local court on Friday stopped newly elected Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Parouk Hussin from assuming office.

But Hussin said the temporary restraining order (TRO) was the handiwork of people with "vested interest" and "out to create unnecessary trouble."

The case was filed by the acting governor, who claimed that under the law that created the expanded ARMM, the governor-elect can only assume office on Sept. 30.

In a five-page decision, Judge Esmel Bagundang of the Regional Trial Court Branch 15 said the case questioning Hussin's assumption into office has legal basis for the court "to cease and desist" him from performing his function as governor.

"Considering the gravity of the allegations," Bagundang said he also included in the TRO the recall of all orders issued by Hussin, who claimed to have officially assumed as elected ARMM governor on Dec. 4, the day he took his oath of office before President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

The same TRO also instructed the Land Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines and the Al-Amanah Islamic Bank of the Philippines to freeze all ARMM accounts until such time when the order is lifted.

Hussin was given five days to submit his counter-affidavit so the case could be heard at 2 p.m. on Dec. 18.

Hussin, who considered the civil case against him as "anomalous," said his lawyers will seriously look into it. **Charlie C. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Lacson versus Wycoco

BY C. BALANA

SEN. Panfilo Lacson has questioned the fitness of former police official Reynaldo Wycoco to be director of the National Bureau of Investigation and has sought the abolition of two positions in the Department of Justice.

During the plenary debate on next year's proposed national budget, Lacson said Wycoco was building four structures on a 3,500-sq. m. lot in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Wycoco has said the structures belong to his sister who is married to a German national.

In a privileged speech last month, Lacson charged Wycoco with receiving P1.2 million monthly from gambling lords, a charge that Wycoco also denied.

Lacson also pointed out that the NBI manual requires the bureau's director to have a law degree or at least have 10 years experience in investigative work. Lacson said Wycoco had neither.

In the case of the DOJ positions, Lacson said no money had been appropriated for the positions of Undersecretary Jose Calida and immigration associate commissioner Orlando Dizon because these posts were "non-existent."

Imperial, 92

GEMINIANO R. Imperial Sr. of Tandang Sora, Quezon City, died on Friday. He was 92.

He is survived by his children and in-laws Mike and Rosie, Jimmy and Emma, Lily and Sito, and Lorna and Romy.

His remains lie at the National Memorial Homes on Araneta Ave., in Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

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SEPT. 11 AFTERMATH US thanks RP

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

BOTH houses of the US Congress have passed resolutions expressing gratitude to the government and the people of the Philippines for the country's sympathy in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and help in the ongoing international war against terrorism.

The resolution called the Americans' use of Philippine military installations for transit, refueling and staging operations "highly valuable" contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom in the Middle East.

US Senate Concurrent Resolution 91 cited President Macapagal-Arroyo's unwavering support for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the allowing the use of the country's military installations for "transit, refueling, re-supply and staging operations."

"(After) the United States launched Operation En-

during Freedom in Afghanistan on Oct. 7, 2001, (Ms Macapagal) immediately announced her government's unwavering support for the operation, calling it the start of a just offensive," the resolution read.

The US congress, in the concurrent resolutions, also acknowledged the economic and military needs of the country and pledged to continue helping address these concerns.

"(This) assistance provided by the Philippines has proved highly valuable in the prosecution of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan," the US senators agreed in the resolution.

US Sen. Jesse Helms (Republican-North Carolina) filed the resolution and the US Senate agreed to it on Dec. 10. Co-authors of the resolution were US Senators Richard Lugar (Republican-Indiana), John Kerry (Democrat-Massachusetts), and Charles Hagel (Republican-Nevada).

Newbies cut oil prices

BY R. DOMINGO

NEW oil industry player Seaoil Petroleum Corp. will slash prices of all its products by 30 centavos per liter this morning, following an earlier move by fellow newcomer Flying V.

Flying V implemented a rollback of from 20 to 30 centavos per liter of its products effective midnight Saturday.

The two oil firms, which have been the most aggressive among the new oil companies in reducing prices since October, said the latest cut was the result of the continued slide in international oil prices.

Flying V stressed the move was not in reaction to a statement made by the Consumer and Oil Price Watch.

"Flying V had effected this rollback as early as Dec. 5, only our dealers asked us to defer it until their old inventories had been used up," said Rizza Palma Gil-Odra, the oil firm's spokesperson.

The last pump price rollback was on Dec. 3, by an average of 30

centavos per liter.

This latest reduction was the sixth since October and the 11th this year.

"We were able to immediately implement another rollback because the inventory of (our main office) was not too high," Odra said.

Flying V has 56 gas stations nationwide, most of which are in Northern Luzon, while Seaoil has 50.

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ERRATUM

On Saturday, December 8, 2001, the Ateneo de Manila University published a Special Feature on section I pages 1 to 4 of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Somehow, certain portions of the Special Feature were erroneously printed. The images and words above are the correct versions. The Inquirer sincerely apologizes to the readers and to the Ateneo de Manila University for the oversight.

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OPINION

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The awful power

LAST week, the impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto hurdled its second test, after the committee on justice of the House of Representatives found it to be sufficient in form. All that the actual vote meant was that a majority of the committee members found the complaint to have been properly filed with Congress. In other words, it merely confirmed that the complaint had truly hurdled the first test—including the matter of endorsement.

EDITORIAL

And yet it was a major decision just the same.

Impeachment is truly an awful power. It is awe-inspiring because, as we learned exactly a year ago, it dramatically converts the halls of Congress into the chambers of justice. It is also terrifying, because, on the one hand, it is a weapon of enormous power and, on the other, it is unwieldy and difficult to use.

That the 58-member committee has even reached this far in a matter that involves the ombudsman is thus a sign of growing political maturity. The ombudsman is protected by the impeachment clause—that is, he is one of several officials who can be removed from office only through impeachment—precisely because it is his sworn duty to investigate and if necessary to prosecute all public officials suspected of wrongdoing. Without this protection, this political appointee would be at the mercy of political warriors or mercenaries. In this light, the committee's finding that the complaint was validly filed is not only a decision to hear what the complainant has to say. It is also a deliberate move on the part of the House to unsheathe the unwieldy sword, risky as the undertaking will be.

This week, the committee meets again to deliberate on the substance of the complaint, the third test.

On the face of it—the idiomatic meaning of the legal term *prima facie*—we can see that there is cause for Congress to hear the complaint in full.

In the first place, the complainant, lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr., has damned himself in filing his complaint because he admits that he was a direct participant in the alleged bribery that took place on Sept. 10, 1997. This declaration against one's self-interest is a powerful argument for giving the complaint its day in court. Unlike the self-serving and self-referential accusations of telecoms businessman Pacifico Marcelo, who apparently in his own estimation is the last honest man on earth, the complaint of Francisco is based on an assertion that rings true: he has come forward because he had taken part in the crime.

Secondly, Francisco has offered other information that, once heard in Congress, may constitute strong corroborative evidence. He has in his possession an audiotape that documents, at the express instruction of his former client, banker Luke Roxas, an October 2001 meeting that recalls the details of the 1997 bribe which Roxas and Francisco offered to Desierto and which Desierto allegedly accepted. He also has telephone billing statements and hotel records to support his claim, as well as an affidavit with very specific details. (In contrast, Marcelo's 12-page sworn statement does not even specify the date of his meeting with the President in Malacañang, a revealing sin of omission.)

Thirdly, Francisco's allegations tend to explain Desierto's puzzling non-action on the so-called Petron scam. In 1995 and 1996, the government lost half a billion pesos when officers of the Bank of Southeast Asia, the bank which Roxas once owned (since renamed), figured in an elaborate conspiracy to defraud the government. On the bank's own initiative, the National Bureau of Investigation probed the matter and then seconded the case to the ombudsman. Because of fears of a bank run, in 1997 Roxas and Francisco asked Desierto to postpone his probe to defuse the bank-run rumors, reportedly in exchange for P237,000 in video camera parts and P500,000 in cash. Here's the compelling detail: since 1997, the ombudsman has not acted on the Petron scam at all. Again, to offer an instructive contrast, the Marcelo scandal glosses over the fact that no bribe had taken place and no veto was ever "recalled."

Because Desierto is prosecuting the Estrada plunder case, he and some others have decried the impeachment complaint as only the latest attempt to undermine the historic case. That is of course possible, but surely the case against Estrada depends on more than Desierto's participation? It is the Office of the Ombudsman that is prosecuting the case; it is Desierto who is the subject of the impeachment complaint. To confuse one with the other is a mere feint, an attempt to put the awful sword of impeachment back in the scabbard.



What's happened to the Lacson case?

WHAT has happened to the Senate investigation of the charges of drug trafficking and money laundering against Sen. Panfilo Lacson?

Until early September this year, the people were glued to their TV sets watching Col. Victor Corpus and star witness Mary "Rosebud" Ong submit devastating evidence against Lacson. Many corroborating witnesses joined to offer direct testimony implicating the senator in the charges. Even Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, who was supposed to defend Lacson (and himself), practically convicted himself with his self-destructing declarations. And there was still that queue of outraged citizens waiting to denounce them.

The consensus at the time was that Corpus had already established a *prima facie* case (at least) against Lacson and the Narcotics Group earlier headed by Acop and under Lacson's command. The people expected the former PNP chief to respond, as was his right, to the evidence piling up against him. He has not done so except with general denials. Ong said she had more revelations to make, and there were also other witnesses eager to take the stand against him. However, the investigation was abruptly discontinued and the Senate adjourned for a recess.

Was that a merciful respite for Lacson or, more than that, a termination of the case?

The investigation could have been continued during that recess, but many senators excused themselves allegedly to fulfill various official commitments abroad. The investigating committees are not like the Commission on Appointments, which can meet only while Congress is in session. The Senate could have devoted its full attention to the investigation during the recess without needing to devote part of its time to its legislative agenda.

The senators obviously considered their yearly junkets more important and blithely left for foreign shores and their expensive enticements.

If memory serves, the beleaguered senator delivered two privileged speeches against the administration in an attempt to deflect public attention from his investigation. Both speeches bombed. The first was a feeble protestation of his innocence that few people swallowed. The

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani
A. Cruz



second was an attack drafted by the opposition against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that no one else among its members was willing to deliver. It made the political neophyte even less believable.

Nevertheless, certain important events here and abroad have succeeded where Lacson had not in defusing the charges against him.

The most important of these was the terrorist attacks in the United States that gripped the attention of the whole world. The subsequent relentless hunt for Osama bin Laden served to further dilute public interest in the Senate investigation. The continuing pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf bandits, the resurgence of the MNLF rebellion under Nur Misuari, and, more spectacularly, the murder of Nida Blanca have also been favorable to Lacson albeit to no one else. All these have operated to lessen the impact of the damaging revelations against him.

In these circumstances, it is possible that the Senate will quietly decide to shelve the Lacson case and consign it to the archives, where it will die a natural death. The more familiar way of putting it is that it will be simply swept under the rug, where it will remain hidden and eventually forgotten. Such a disposition will be completely conformable to the code of the old boys' club to protect every one of its members regardless of partisan ties and the respondent's innocence or guilt.

This will be a serious mistake, of course. A cover-up is out of the question. The people cannot be tricked into simply forgetting the case against Lacson without a forthright finding for or against him. The public expense alone of the probe has been tremendous. More important is the seriousness of the crimes imputed to Estrada's top policeman. These are not mere misdemeanors but involve two of the most serious

problems of our society and, particularly, of our law-enforcement authorities. Drug trafficking and money laundering cannot be treated as minor infractions that do not deserve the time and concern of the Senate.

One of the Senate pretexts for not resuming the investigation of its notorious member is that it is busy with other matters. Could it be the telecom probe, which it began without first concluding the Lacson case, or is it the budget? I remember that its legislative duties were no impediment to the impeachment of Joseph Estrada: the senators gamely discharged both tasks, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, sometimes into the late evening. The Senate can make a similar allocation of its time so it can continue with the Lacson case without hampering its lawmaking functions.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez says he has not yet received the report of Lacson's money laundering that he has requested from the US government. The Senate may wait for it in the meantime or, if it is so minded, dismiss the charge for failure of the administration to prove it. Lacson recently challenged Perez to put up or shut up, and the poor secretary had to hedge without much conviction. Lacson should follow-up with a knockout punch like Lennox Lewis and demand that the case be dropped for lack of evidence.

There is sufficient reason, however, to pursue the other count of drug trafficking. Along with other prospective witnesses, the persistent Rosebud is prepared to resume her testimony and add more fuel to the fire that has been scorching Lacson. Drug trafficking affects many of our people and, if not checked, may transform our country into another Colombia. This problem cannot be simply winked away in light of the shocking secrets revealed so far against Lacson.

The Lacson investigation should not be allowed to drag interminably like the Estrada cases in the Sandiganbayan. Much less should it be suppressed by a deliberate desuetude prompted by the senators' traditional protectiveness for each other regardless of their political differences. Only an impartial decision can satisfy the people's demand for the disclosure of the truth about Lacson and his exoneration or discipline as the evidence may warrant.

One for the money, two for the show

THE STORY is told about a woman who married four times: first, to a millionaire, then to an actor, next to a minister, and finally to an undertaker. What was her theme song? "One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!"

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes his cousin John the Baptist not as one who was dressed in fine clothing (millionaire), nor as a reed swaying in the wind (actor), but as a prophet, one who urged people to get ready to go prepare the way. The greatness of John did not lie in his being rich or famous, but in what he stood for and in his mission for others. Indeed, a man's worth is measured not by what he has, not even by who he is, but, by what others have become because of him.

It is sad that some people literally spend their whole lifetime just one, for the money, and two, for the show. I have met people whose only obsession and preoccupation is to have money and more money. Money is their god. Everything else is secondary. Relationships are just for convenience, or just for show. God Himself is kept on the side just for safety, and just in case, for more blessings and *swerte*. They stand all right, and they stand tall, but they stand for nothing and for no one. They stand just for themselves. That's it. That's all.

It is likewise sad that Christmas for many people is just "one for the money, two for the show," and never go on to "three to get ready and four to go." Their Christmas is just on the level of the material and the trimmings. For them, Christmas is just expenses, shopping, parties, vacation and happy holidays. They forget the original meaning of "holiday" which is "holy day."

Make sure the holidays are holy by reaching out to your God, and by sharing your love and

MOMENTS

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your blessings especially with the poor and the needy, till it hurts. Remember, remove CHRIST from CHRISTMAS, and you end up with MAS—Many Are SAD, Magulo Ang Sanlibutan, Malabo Ang Samahan.

Worse, some people talk of the Christmas holidays as "huli" (trap) days. We joke about being trapped by our *inaanak* (godchildren) or by the expenses and obligations that come with the season. Some even feel trapped by carolers or poor relatives and neighbors who come knocking at their doors asking for some *aguinaldo* or gifts. Still others feel trapped in having to meet and mingle with people whom they do not particularly like. Again, the Lord reminds all of us to go beyond "one for the money, two for the show," and proceed to "three to get ready and four to go."

Life is difficult these days, but don't forget that there are a lot of people around you who have more difficult lives. Reach out and share. Even with those who seem to abuse your generosity, like the carolers and beggars who keep coming back. *Minsan lang sa isang taon na lokohin ka nila. Magpaloko ka na. Pasko naman, e!*

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. Rejoice! In spite of problems and difficult times, rejoice. And so it is that we celebrate, we decorate, we rejoice even during these difficult times because we stand for God, and for hope.

We tell the world that we are a joyful and a hopeful people because of God who loves us. Yes, we stand for something, we stand for Someone.

Are you teaching your children to be generous? Parents often make the mistake of teaching their children to be wise and careful with the tricky ways of the world, but in the end, teach them by their very examples to be selfish and greedy. Take time to bring the children to see the misery of people around them. Tell them to give away some of their treasures like toys, clothes and savings. Assign them to give money to carolers. Bring them to a hospital, an old folks' home, or an orphanage and make them learn love and compassion, especially this Christmas season.

It was so enriching to be with so many priests yesterday at the ordination of 10 new SVD priests, Bishop Chito Tagle of Imus reminded us all, in his most simple and joyful way, about our role as good shepherds, not hired shepherds. The bottom line is that we must be humble, committed and joyful. *Hindi bayaran, hindi palabas lang!* In other words, we are priests not just for the money nor just for the show. We must be prophets, ready to sacrifice and ready to go.

Fr. Noel Bongalon, SVD was one of the missionaries ordained at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay yesterday. He will be sent to Chile. He is a concrete example of one who stands for God in spite of personal pains. His mother, Soledad, died last Dec. 8, at the age of 64, six days before her most awaited day, her son's ordination. Father Noel is one person who has gone beyond the money and the show, and, literally, he is getting ready to go wherever the Lord sends him to.

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, beyond the money and the show, help me to get ready because anytime I can go. Amen!

A time for critical reflection

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.

Institute on Church and Social Issues

ON THE LAST Sunday of September, I attended Mass on the outskirts of Rutland, Vermont, in the United States. Vermont is known for its mountains and lakes, the brilliant foliage on its mountainsides in the autumn, its maple syrup, skiing, hunting, fishing and farming; Vermonters are said to be hard-working, conservative, down-to-earth people of few words, and stubbornly patriotic.

Hence I was impressed to hear the parish priest, less than three weeks after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, call for critical reflection on the root causes of the attacks. Without attempting to justify terrorism, he pointed to the United States' reluctance to put real pressure on Israel as one source of hostility to America in the Arab world. He went on to discuss American foreign aid, noting that while it is substantial in absolute terms it is close to the bottom among developed nations as a percentage of gross national product. And he touched on the seeming assumption on every international issue, from trade to environmental protection, that "what is good for the United States is good for the world."

Back in Jersey City, near the riverfront from which one could look across to the gap in the familiar skyline of lower Manhattan, and the smoke still rising from where the Twin Towers once stood, I found a very different atmosphere. The people there were much closer to the events; some of the terrorists had lived and worked among them, and many in Jersey City had lost relatives or friends in the attack on the World Trade Center. Wreaths hung on the railing at the riverfront, along with crayon posters made by schoolchildren.

Union Square in New York had become a place for evening prayer services, and the walls nearby were plastered with pictures of missing friends

and relatives, in the hope that they might somehow have survived. One parish that I know well counted 35 of its members dead—firemen and policemen and police workers. Throughout the metropolitan area, there were memorial services, especially for the policemen and firemen who had ventured into the doomed towers in the hope of saving others. Remembered also were the passengers on the fourth hijacked plane who fought the hijackers and prevented an attack on the White House at the cost of their own lives.

The solidarity was profound, and the religious atmosphere in supposedly secular America was impressive. But there was little of the kind of serious reflection which I had heard in Vermont.

And as the anthrax hysteria spread, so did the war fever. America, it seemed, needed an outlet for its outrage; and the Taliban, though perhaps not the most guilty, was the most visible target.

And so the wake-up call for America to reflect on its ways was drowned out by the din of battle.

Coming home to the Philippines, I note that this country has received two wake-up calls in this first year of the third millennium. The first, on May Day, challenged us to realize that there is a vast underclass in our society that is alienated from our political and economic institutions, and indeed from the Church. Its members feel that they have no stake in our society or in its institu-

tions, for these have done nothing for them and are doing nothing for them. They are the men and women who, wrongly indeed, saw Erap Estrada as one of their own, one with whom they could identify, one who had breached the walls of the elite enclaves from which they are excluded, and was inviting them in.

The second wake-up call was sounded last month, with the standoff in Zamboanga City between Nur Misuari's followers and the Philippine military. Here, too, behind all of the politics, lies the reality of social exclusion. The Muslim provinces lie consistently at the bottom in terms of social indicators, whether these be health, education, income or whatever. To cite just one example: a child born in Pampanga in 1997 could expect to live on the average 71 years; one born in Tawi-Tawi could expect to live only 51.9 years of life. The latter is deprived of 19 years of life by the nation's failure to provide the same level of health and education services to all of its citizens.

These problems of social exclusion in the Philippines have deep historical, social and cultural roots; they will not be resolved overnight. But the wake-up call is there, reminding the nation as Abraham Lincoln reminded the American people 150 years ago that a "nation cannot survive half slave and half free." Social exclusion leads to resentment, criminality, violence, kept in control, if at all, by a garrison state. The wake-up call suggests a long hard look at the institutions—land-ownership and tax structures and development plans and social services and the rest—that keep the Philippines a nation divided. And it demands the political will and solidarity to look beyond the personal and group interests that dominate public life and focus once and for all on the good of the nation as a whole.

Down in the dumps, but digging out!

GARBAGE collection and disposal is one of the most basic needs of any society. Properly managed, the collection and treatment of garbage improve the quality of life, the cleanliness of the environment and health. If not done properly, people suffer from disease and sickness and the environment itself suffers from contamination.

But it takes planning, resources and commitment to put in place an effective system for handling waste. The Philippines today faces a choice

of continuing to fight a losing battle and suffering the consequences, or building on a new level of commitment by legislators, some local governments and civil society to deal with the garbage problem for the benefit of this and future generations.

COMMENTARY

Robert Vance Pulley

Consider some facts:

- Each Filipino generates almost half a kilo of garbage daily. The 10 million tons of garbage generated this year will increase 40 percent by 2010—or even more, if cities or the economy grow more rapidly than forecast.

- Only 70 percent of garbage is collected in urban areas, and just 40 percent in rural areas. The situation is worst in poor communities.

- In 1997, only 10 percent of solid waste in the Philippines was landfilled. Today, the situation has even worsened, with just 2 percent of waste disposed of in controlled dumps or sanitary landfills, while 75 percent is left to rot in open, uncontrolled dumps.

- Just 5 percent of hazardous waste is recycled or properly treated.

- The premature closing of the Carmona and San Mateo landfills due to environmental concerns, local opposition to new sites and the lack of a comprehensive recycling system cause garbage to pile up in Metro Manila.

- The health and environmental effects of rotting garbage and untreated toxic material include contamination of ground and surface water, flooding, disease and air pollution due to uncontrolled burning of waste. These endanger the health of all Filipinos and hurt the poor most.

The present "garbage crisis" has begun to reverse the apparent indifference of ordinary citizens and officials. People are now looking for solutions.

The government and civil society should be complimented for the passage of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 26, 2001. This law was the result of several years of work by lawmakers, environmentalists, professionals and civil society. It promotes an integrated approach to solid waste management and sets ambitious goals.

The challenge now is to enforce the law—turning it into action by moving from advocacy to implementation which actually results in benefits for people and the environment.

The World Bank is issuing the "Philippines Environment Monitor for 2001," which focuses on solid waste management. It provides information on the scope of the problem, shares international experiences and assesses the major challenges in implementing RA 9003.

Some of these challenges are:

- Building the capacity of local and national institutions and communities responsible for collecting, treating and disposing of solid waste.

- Devising a financing strategy to fund the implementation of the law. We estimate that full implementation would require an additional P150 billion over the next 10 years, with nearly 80 percent needed for expanding collection, recycling, treatment and disposal facilities. Long-term capital, private-sector participation, user fees and incentives through cost sharing for local authorities who invest in proper disposal facilities should be considered. So should cost-saving measures such as shared facilities, waste reduction and recycling to bring down the overall costs.

- Moving gradually up the "technology ladder" from uncontrolled open dumps to controlled dumps and sanitary landfills. The debate over the suitability of quick-fix technologies offering overnight solutions for disposing household garbage is a distraction from pursuing more doable and urgently needed solutions that involve recycling, composting and sanitary land-filling. In most countries, this combination is being effectively used to dispose of municipal solid waste. For example, in Korea, 60 percent of municipal solid waste is dumped into sanitary landfills and this is the predominant and safe approach for most developed countries. Incineration is not an effective option for disposing of municipal solid waste in the Philippines because of the unsuitable technical characteristics of the waste (high moisture and organic content and low calorific value), high construction and operating costs and the attendant environmental risks due to weak monitoring and enforcement.

- Adopting a pragmatic approach to respond to the treatment of infectious medical and hazardous wastes, given that incineration is banned by the Clean Air Act. The imposition of the ban is two years away, and there is an urgent need to find safe and effective disposal practices to avoid the bigger problem of unsafe and unregulated practices beyond 2003.

- Addressing the Not-In-My-Backyard Syndrome (Nimby). This requires greater political will and public understanding, combined with some good examples of properly operating controlled dumps and sanitary landfills. Some local mayors are beginning to address the problem by converting to controlled dumps. Their efforts should be supported and recognized.

Managing *basura* is not an insurmountable problem. The Philippines has shown that it has the commitment to address the issue through the passage of a comprehensive law, and steps can be taken now to ensure its implementation. Nobody wants to see the situation deteriorate further. Neither does anyone want to see a repeat of the human tragedy at Payatas.

Robert Vance Pulley is the country director for the Philippines of the World Bank.

THEY SAID

Wrong approach

"Asking the public about the innocence or guilt of anyone...is a wrong approach to this. We might preclude the integrity of our whole judicial system."

—Sen. Rodolfo Blazon asking the media to stop the practice of asking people if they believe a suspect is innocent or not

Courage and dedication

"In spite of numerous threats to her life and welfare, she remained staunchly at her post, preferring to work under duress rather than turn her back on her sworn duty while living in comfortable anonymity."

—Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo on slain Comelec director Velma Cinco

Endless promises

"We are sick and tired of politicians who only have promises as their platform of government."

—Ebrahim Paglas III on the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao polls

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September attacks changing Americans' psyche

NEW YORK—We've stopped laughing at our president, we've reached for cigarettes even though we'd quit and we're taking a closer look at the person we call our significant other.

The attacks on Washington and New York that killed thousands of people and hurled the nation into war wrought dramatic changes in how Americans see themselves and their country.

With patriotism at fever pitch, Americans are trying to buy more US-made products and are more willing to sacrifice time for the sake of national security, according to surveys conducted by the Ladies Home Journal.

"I don't think patriotism will ever be the same thing for anybody who thinks about it," said Sarah Mahoney, editor of the magazine that conducted surveys around the country in the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks. "This experience, as sad as it was, somehow changed the way they see themselves as Americans in a really positive way. I think everyone is sorry it happened, but it did make us feel like this country does stand for something. A price has been paid for that."

With that sentiment comes less cynicism, said NBC talk show host Jay Leno, whose nightly audience gives him a unique window into the mood of Americans.

"Six months ago, Bush saying 'sublimable-ble-ble' was a huge story," the comic said in an interview from Los Angeles. "But as I said about two weeks after, we can't do Bush jokes anymore because as you know he's smart now. As a country, we can make fun of our president all we want, but as soon as someone else does, we turn on them and we unite behind him."

All that goodwill has its dark side, cautioned Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz, who said vast numbers of Americans seem willing to support the administration no matter what the cost. "The administration can now put through the program that they would have liked to put through previously, and it's cost-free," he said. "I can't think of anything that the people would not accept that the administration says, especially if you get (New York City Mayor) Rudy Giuliani to support it."

As the satirical newspaper The Onion quipped

FEATURE

Ellen Wulforst

in a headline after the attacks, "Area Man Acts Like He's Been Interested in Afghanistan All Along," Americans who have long been criticized for parochial attitudes have grown more interested in the world beyond our borders. We've pushed books about Afghanistan on to best-seller lists, and we've bought so many world atlases, wall maps and globes that sales have tripled over a year ago at the Rand McNally Map & Travel stores, according to the company's statistics.

"It's huge. Before, a good 70 percent of people buying a globe or a framed map of the world said, 'Is it going to match my furniture?'" This year, they say, "What's on this globe, is it up to date, does it have all the 'stans' on it?" said Linda Fish, manager of a Rand McNally store in downtown Chicago.

"It's something that has woken them up," she said. "It seemed that people decided they didn't know much about the world. They knew about vacation spots."

After looking at so many photographs and videos of the two hijacked passenger aircraft slamming into the World Trade Center's twin towers, Americans have grown fearful, hesitate to spend time in skyscrapers and feel more comfortable traveling by car than by plane, studies show.

The studies also show they are returning to the cigarettes they gave up long ago or drinking more, but they are also quick to think better of it. Admissions to drug and alcohol treatment programs climbed more than 10 percent across the country this autumn, according to the National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University in New York.

Stories told with courage

MARILOU Diaz-Abaya goes against the grain of her culture in almost all of her films. She questions the truisms of common sense not by marshalling logical arguments against them but by telling stories of people who are victims of these truisms. She invites her viewers to suspend the imperatives of their beliefs even only for a moment, so they can imagine themselves in the skin of her characters. Her new film, "Bagong Buwan," uses this rhetorical strategy in a powerful way.

This is what makes Diaz-Abaya films dangerous—and I mean that in a positive way. They are not consciously political or philosophical, although undoubtedly they can be appropriated by various causes. They disturb but they do not explicitly argue for a new or "better" way of living or seeing the world. They bear witness to the pain of being human, but they do not proselytize for any religion or ideology. They challenge our deepest biases, but we are left alone to find our own way out of them.

What Diaz-Abaya offers are stories that make us question the things that we conventionally associate with the true, the good, the right and the moral. She compels us to be aware of the limited and accidental nature of our personal beliefs. She lets us see that instead of the universal values we assume to be, these are just products of the peculiar way we were brought up in a specific time and place. She makes us realize that other people growing up in other cultures would find it equally natural and reasonable to act and live in a totally different way.

For two years, Diaz-Abaya immersed herself in Islamic studies and sought to understand the beliefs and stories through which generations of Mindanao Muslims become part of an ancient way of life. As a Filipino woman bred in Catholic convent schools, she came back from this experience filled with awe and respect for a culture that has been so profoundly misunderstood and misrepresented. She started conceptualizing the film at the height of the Sipadan hostage-taking. Halfway into the making of the film, the terrorist at-

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



tacks on New York and Washington, D.C. happened. How does one tell a hopeful story about Muslims anywhere especially against the backdrop of Sept. 11?

"Bagong Buwan (New Moon)" is the story of two Moro brothers: one, a doctor who works long hours in a Manila hospital, and the other, a commander in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who fights for the cause of an independent Islamic nation in Mindanao. A new Philippine president is elected, and the war enters another episode of renewed hostilities.

A tragedy in the family brings the young doctor back to the land of his ancestors. He grieves over the senseless death of a loved one, but he cannot bring himself to return hatred with hatred. He persuades his family to relocate to Manila with him. His brother, the warrior, scoffs at his indifference to the plight of his own people. Their mother, a wise woman who has lived through countless wars and evacuations, tells them to stop arguing. She loves both sons, and she does not feel torn by their conflicting visions.

The film progresses in the context of a community's forced evacuation. Many people die in the course of this exodus. The young doctor at one point picks up a gun on impulse and, against the rational sensibility of his secular education at the State University, rains fire upon a militia uniting on the wall of a mosque. His anger frightens him, and he cries like a child over his own confusion.

This is the main story, but it is only one among many. A young lieutenant, fresh from the Philippine Military Academy, searches for terrorists

among evacuees who have sought refuge in the farm of a village *datu*. He too has his own story to tell. The *datu*, who traces his lineage to all the Islamic warriors who resisted Spanish and American colonizers, looks up at the sacred icons of the Moro struggle in his house and replays in his imagination the tales of heroism of ancestors long gone. A Catholic NGO worker brings relief goods to Moro evacuees and finds himself moving with them in quest of a safe place. His uncle, a priest in Mindanao, had been murdered just a few years back. A young Christian boy becomes part of this community of Muslim evacuees by accident, and his simple view of the world is shattered by the events he witnesses and the stories he hears.

The film tells these stories with such unerring compassion that all the questions that people endlessly debate in innumerable talk shows—who is to blame? what is the root of this violence? etc.—suddenly become pointless and irrelevant. Diaz-Abaya is also interested in these questions, but she has seen enough and read enough to know that even the most persuasive answers are often encrusted in unexamined prejudices.

Many Filipino viewers may not like "Bagong Buwan"; some may even feel offended by it and attempt to come up with logical arguments to counter its premises. They would be missing the point. The whole purpose of the film is to challenge us to loosen our beliefs and attitudes, and to encourage us to reweave our moral vocabularies by inviting us to an imaginative identification with the suffering of people different from us.

Many of us will resist the attempt to redescribe a culture we have long been taught to demonize. I think that is okay with Diaz-Abaya. Her goal is not so much to propose a reason to care about suffering, but to sharpen our sensitivity to suffering wherever it occurs. This type of work increasingly can no longer be done by philosophers and politicians. It is best done by storytellers.

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

STATE OF EDUCATION IN RP

Just how bad does it get?

UNDER-REPORTED STORIES

THE USUAL suspects are rounded up every year, usually at about the time school opens: not enough classrooms, not enough textbooks, not enough teachers. The real culprits, however, go scot-free, or at least go under-reported. The most wanted list includes a dramatic deterioration in

English proficiency, a dearth of quality textbooks, a deep insularity in matters of research and research publication. Herewith, three different takes on under-reported stories in education. Altogether, they tell the same story: our standards are falling.

Fractured English

BY DANILO R. CRUZ

TEACHING is exhilarating; it gives you fresh insights as you interact with younger minds. It is also ennobling; you become part of a bigger mission, that of helping mold these same minds to become something useful to the country in the future.

As I write, however, I feel a certain sadness. I visualize my students waving and throwing their graduation hats in the air one balmy April day. I see them entering a different portal, one that will bring them into the business world of restaurants, hotels and airlines. I realize that the tide will have inevitably changed—the students will no longer pay the school to teach them; instead, they will be asking their future employers to pay them. I see them getting ready for the rigmarole of interviews and the battery of tests, both verbal and written—and I doubt whether they will have an easy time passing the screening process, or whether they will pass at all.

Why do I say this? Several months ago, some of my students submitted the first draft of their group thesis on the history and business viability of a café. In their introduction, they wrote:

"A business improved, many have opened and tried restaurant business and introduced new ideas adapted from other countries. They see this is an opportunity that would enhance people's needs. Despite all this, only average survived in the business. The risk in restaurant business is high. About one third of all restaurant in business will return over ... There are operators without taste, talents, or honesty probably because too many restaurant patrons see nothing different."

They continued: "Despite the fact of many restaurant business in the Philippines, you may also hear about their story a bit discouraging ... Success in the restaurant business will be measured not only in having a profitable restaurant but also in rewards that are less easy to measure ..."

Having seen the future, I came away deeply disturbed.

And to think this was only one example of a group paper. Having examined several more, I can say that all these graduating students exhibited a similar writing style. Worse, some even attempted to submit master-

pieces by other authors, substituting their names and hoping nobody would notice the difference. And all I wanted was simple English!

Should I fail these students and have them repeat their thesis, this time in simple and clear English?

On second thought, what good will it do? Isn't it too late for them to learn how to write clearly in the English language—the language of science and of business?

Should we even blame them? Or should we blame their English teachers, for lazily giving them passing marks while selling *tocino* and *longganisa* on the side. It is a sad truth that students are just as good (or bad) as their teachers.

I am in a quandary, because thesis writing is a matter of "pass" or "fail." There are no "in between" grades, such as "thesis in progress," as in my Masters. And even if I did give them a "thesis in progress" grade, what good will it do? It will only prolong their misery. Should I then compromise my own standards?

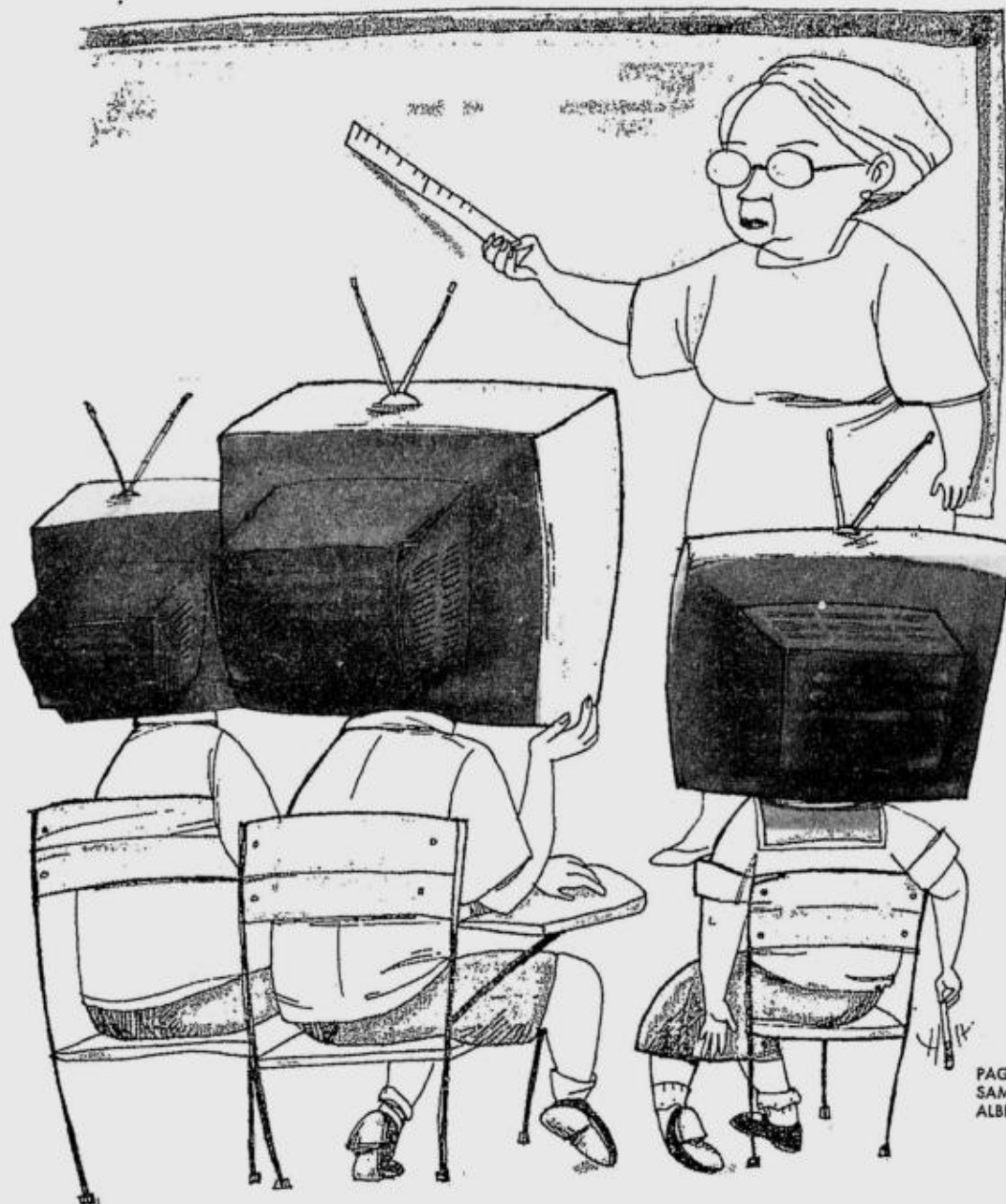
I have tried not to jump to conclusions. I tried to review their facility in spoken English. Unfortunately, the same thing happened; I literally struggled to get their meaning. These students—"future leaders all"—who communicate in fractured English may fracture the world of business.

Every day, as I patiently teach them the intricacies of thesis writing, I see them sitting in their chairs as though suspended on air. They look like the first wind that comes along may topple them from their seats ... I remember my high school teachers harassing us everyday with the proper conjugation of English verbs and whatnot. I now realize the relevance of the discipline.

Education Secretary Raul Roco might have a chance to do something for future generations, as there really is something lacking in our educational system. But what about those college students who will be getting their diplomas come April next year and the year after that?

I pray that radical change happens now. Tomorrow may very well be too late.

Cruz is a business consultant and a college dean. He cannot help but regard students as "customers" whom those in the "business of teaching" may have failed.



PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO/ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Defective textbooks

BY ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
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DEFECTIVE textbooks are the best-kept secrets of Philippine education. Like those afflicted with leprosy, syphilis, or AIDS, the victims find it difficult to speak of the horrors. But it is time we broke the code of silence imposed upon us by the coven of conniving authors, publishers, schools—and government itself.

The textbook is far and away the most important instructional material there is. It is the main source of knowledge and information for 18 million Filipino students studying in both public and private schools.

But Philippine education is awash in a sea of defective textbooks. This I found out firsthand, when I took on the responsibility of evaluating textbooks for the use of the students of a private school in Quezon City. In terms of substance and quality, a disturbingly large percentage of local textbooks is very, very bad indeed.

Textbooks are supposed to teach, by content which is supposed to be factual, rational and moral. If textbooks do nothing but feed students the wrong facts and inculcate negative values, is that not miseducation? When students are made to undergo long-term tutelage using faulty textbooks, will not this protracted immersion in the dye vat of error color him black and blue in the end?

Miseducating schoolchildren under the pretense of educating them is like giving a sick person a daily dose of arsenic instead of medicine. It is exactly like the feigned gift of a gigantic hollow wooden horse which the Greeks left before the gates of Troy. We are of course familiar with this classic tale of how a people virtually created turned themselves into victims by falling for the ways of deceit and duplicity.

The bad book is like the gob of sticky scented silk hanging on a line from the web of the Australian honeycomb spider, which lures moths by its irresistible smell. It is the pitcher plant, which lures insects into its jug-shaped sac with odor and nectar. It is the alligator snapping turtle, which uses a lure on its tongue to capture its prey. It is the big wolf posing as Granny in the fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood," as well as the evil queen disguised as an old peddler selling poisoned apples in "Snow White."

It is, finally, the double-dealing politician's lie masquerading as rhetorical technique.

Under the guise of instruction, the ruse of teaching, defective textbooks first captivate and enchant, lure and deceive, and then capture their prey. With its glossy colorful cover as decoy and the screaming credentials of its authors as ad spiel and come-on, the defective textbook becomes the baited hook, at the end of which is a hungry fisherman. Hidden behind the camouflage of the supposed instructional material, bad books obtain their prey through fraud and deceit. The abhorrent scheme that is the error-studded textbook is institutionalized white-collar abuse of our schoolchildren. All over the land, Filipino children are being systematically lobotomized and rendered *bobos* while we sit and watch the parade go by.

The unholy alliance of publishers, authors and schools, operating unfettered and free under the unwatchful eyes of the sleeping giant that is the Department of Education, has conspired to bring Pepe and Pilar closer and closer to being truly children of a lesser god.

All lower forms of life have one and only one purpose in life—to ensure the survival of the next generation. The female Australian gastric-brooding frog, for instance, swallows her own eggs, then incubates them in her stomach. All this time, her digestion is suspended; she does not eat. After the eggs hatch and develop, the mother gives birth to the froglets through their mouth. A man placed in a similar condition will most likely swallow that which is already in his guts.

Man is hands down the most ruthless of all the beasts of prey, in that he preys systematically on his own kind. Only animals know that we live on in our children, and that by damaging them we damage posterity.

The quality of children we produce and develop determine nothing less than the quality of the future for all of us. The quality of education we give them will determine whether the aspiration of the brick to become a cathedral will find fulfillment when it is at last placed atop a steeple, or face crushing defeat in the dust.

In our beginning is our end. To slay promise and potential in our children by allowing them to partake of the fruit of the poison tree of Faulty Education is to attenuate eternity.

We must put a quick end to this practice.

Inadequate research

BY FLOR LACANILAO
Retired Professor of Marine Science,
University of the Philippines

Teaching a classroom-full of MTV-heads is hard enough. But add textbooks littered with factual and other errors, and the task becomes Herculean

TWO basic causes continue to hold back the progress of science in the Philippines. One of them is poor graduate training. An important requirement for an advanced degree in science is the thesis, which is meant to be training in research. And research is not completed until results are properly published. But in most of the country's graduate schools, the end of graduate training is still the bound thesis, rather than its publication. Most holders of graduate degrees in the country have therefore failed to consider the importance of proper publication of study results.

Another reason for the slow development of science in the Philippines is the continued publication of low-quality journals. Research journals should promote science by publishing reliable results. But Philippine journals lack the two requirements they need to play that role: adequate peer review and accessibility for verification of results.

Expert review of manuscripts certifies correctness of method and checks the reference list for related work in important journals. Such quality control measures are seldom met since we lack qualified reviewers. There are not even enough active researchers in editorial boards of Philippine journals, most of which have less than five instead of more than 15 members, as in international refereed journals. And the limited accessibility of Philippine journals discourages international reviewers to serve as referees.

Since Philippine journals are hardly accessible, the required authentication or peer verification of results through follow-up studies is also inadequate. International peers of a given author, who assess observations or repeat experiments, determine whether or not conclusions are justified by the data. Verification supplements peer review in the quality control of the scientific literature, source of information for technology development, decision-making, development programs, education, and other uses for national progress.

Peer verification is measured by analysis of citation data, such as those gathered by indexing services and published in citation indexes, like the *Science Citation Index*. Citation data show the extent of readers' acceptability of a published paper. Unlike in the social sciences where critical citations are more com-

mon, citations in the hard sciences are generally a formal acknowledgment of authoritative or important work.

On the other hand, uncited work does not contribute to knowledge. It just lies buried in a publication, or it may be cited in gray literature, which is seldom taken seriously (12). Any information with potential use is therefore lost. Numerous such publications, uncited (unverified) in important journals, fill the Philippine research literature. We have wrongly viewed them as scientific growth.

Philippine journals in their present state are therefore hardly useful in advancing science. They are even harmful by perpetuating wrong research practices. Though hard to admit, through them a lot of research funds goes to waste. And yet authors earn promotions and some receive awards to announce scientific achievements—though journals have failed to contribute to institutional growth and national progress in science and technology.

To acquire scientific skill and do research properly, one should publish in established international journals. Most of these journals are assured of adequate peer review by an international pool of experts. Methods are validated, sloppiness and fraud are reduced, and knowledge of related work in the scientific literature is checked to prevent one from reinventing the wheel, and the country from going in circles.

The ISI covers only the world's important journals. These journals guarantee published papers not only of better quality, but also of reaching more scientists to make follow-up studies and verify published results. Only then can the research output be useful. Just printing results doesn't validate them.

Researchers and graduate students should access the journal literature through established indexes. Literature search is imperative to keep up with current scientific developments. Recognized indexes are ISI's *Current Contents* and *Science Citation Index*, published in print, and electronic forms. They cover also important journals from Third World countries. But only one science journal and one social science journal from the Philippines have yet met the standards for inclusion among 8,000 journals covered by ISI. They are the *Philippine Agricultural Scientist* (formerly *Philippine Agriculturalist*) and *Journal of Contemporary Asia*.

Excerpted from a paper presented at the "Colloquium on Research in the University" at the University of Santo Tomas last month.

Talking points

MANY students have profited from first-rate textbooks, the kind that appear like true milestones in one's education. That is, they further learning and at the same time form character.

I can think of the SRA series in grade school (a textbook-in-progress if ever there was one); the moldy Jesuit classic, "Sentences," in high school; the pioneering philosophy text "Magpakatao" by Fr. Roque Ferriols, SJ in college; the venerable Tolentino primers on the civil code in law school. I even remember "Approaches to Literature," a true innovation in both literary criticism and

in textbook publishing, which my sisters studied in college but which I read and reread on the side. You can, of course, add your own choices, which by their very nature will recall your own formative experiences.

The very idea of defective textbooks, therefore, comes as an unwelcome reminder that not everyone has been as lucky or, indeed, that not everything we read in school was worth the paper they were printed on.

But are defective textbooks endemic enough to qualify as a story under-reported in general mass media? Mr. Go thinks so, and from his

vantage point it is hard to argue with him: he has had the unenviable task of reviewing a multitude of textbooks for possible use in his school. His argument on the adverse effects of reference material that are defective in content or presentation or moral weight is irrefutable. (An I-Team report is being prepared on the very same issue.) But, perhaps for lack of space, his argument lacks the compelling, smoking-gun quality of specifics.

Mr. Cruz, on the other hand, is nothing if specific. (An unkind reviewer may say his argument con-

sists of nothing but specifics.) His perspective is much narrower than Go's, but his choice of detail is the sort that clinches arguments. What better way to prove the deterioration of the Filipino's storied proficiency in English than to demonstrate it? "Despite all this, only average survived in the business." Ouch. If this is the new average, the English language will not survive the, um, creative attention of the next generation.

But is declining English proficiency an under-reported story, in the sense that we have been using? My own sense, and my own bias,

says Yes, but on this point Cruz is less than adequate.

Inadequacy in research—or, more to the point, in research publication—is the issue Prof. Lacanilao seeks to bring attention to. The short excerpt (the original is a long article from which other stories can be written) focuses on two deficiencies in science education in the Philippines: poor graduate training because of the lack of properly published theses, and low-quality academic journals. Publication (rather than the mere binding!) of one's thesis is an essential part of the research pro-

cess, Lacanilao writes. Research "is not completed until results are properly published." Philippine journals also lack "adequate peer review and accessibility for verification of results."

The result is truly an under-reported story of wide implication. As Lacanilao writes elsewhere, the "poor state of scientific research in the Philippines is the basic reason why it lags in the regional race for development." Or, to anticipate what Cruz' students might say: "you may also hear about their story a bit discouraging."—J. Nery

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Bin Laden's world ever smaller

But US-led forces still not certain where terrorist leader is hiding

WASHINGTON—US commanders believe they are quickly narrowing Osama bin Laden's options for escape from the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. Yet even as US-backed tribal forces advance in the rugged Tora Bora region, no one seems certain whether Bin Laden is even there.

"The honest answer is, we really don't know," Gen. Tommy Franks, the US war commander, said Friday.

If Bin Laden is still there, he has little room to maneuver.

Afghan tribal forces, operating with a few dozen US commandos and supported by American air power, are closing in from the north, and Pakistani troops stand in Bin Laden's way to the south. American forces are not with the Pakistanis, but US officials believe Pakistan wants to keep Bin Laden out.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Friday that there are few escape routes left for al-Qaida fighters. "We think there are not a lot of ways out," he told reporters traveling with him to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan.

US surveillance planes, including high-

altitude Air Force U-2s and an unmanned Global Hawk, are scanning the mountain passes to the east and west, and the al-Qaida fighters thought to be shielding Bin Laden in Tora Bora are being targeted by relentless American bombing. Franks said those al-Qaida troops did not have enough ammunition, food or water to hold out indefinitely in the mountains.

"We can wait longer than they can," Franks told a news conference in Tampa, Florida.

Pentagon officials on Friday were reluctant to embrace the notion that Bin Laden had been surrounded.

"We do not have his precise location," said Victoria Clarke, chief spokesperson for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who left Friday on a trip to Central Asia to discuss the war on terrorism.

US commanders have increased the number of Special Operations Forces in the Tora Bora area in recent days. They are now doing more than calling in US air strikes and advising the Afghan fighters.

Franks said Friday they are engaged in direct combat with al-Qaida warriors. Other officials said they are ready to snatch Bin Laden or other al-Qaida leaders if the opportunity arises.

Franks said he has a "plan in place" for

dealing with Bin Laden if he is captured alive. The four-star Army general would not discuss the plan in detail but said any senior al-Qaida leaders who are taken might be interrogated at US-controlled sites inside Afghanistan or taken to US ships in the Arabian Sea.

Two special operations troops were slightly wounded Friday in an exchange of gunfire with al-Qaida troops in Tora Bora, a witness said.

Tora Bora was thought to be a hide-out for Bin Laden because it contains many caves, some highly fortified and with accommodations that could enable him to hunker down for a long period.

Rumsfeld doesn't exclude any possibility, and he's insisting the US military be ready for the unexpected. That's one reason why US Navy ships are watching the waters off Pakistan's coast: in case senior al-Qaida leaders or top Taliban officials try to smuggle themselves out of the region.

Rumsfeld has not ruled out the chance that Bin Laden may be in central Afghanistan, in the mountains north of Kandahar. On Thursday, he said he assumed Bin Laden had laid plans for an alternate hide-out in the event he had to flee Afghanistan. If he did escape, Rumsfeld said, US forces would pursue him.

AP

Bush to Americans: Quit drugs, join the war effort

WASHINGTON—Citing narcotics trafficking as a source of funding for terrorism, President George W. Bush on Friday called on Americans to join the Sept. 11 war effort by giving up illegal drugs.

"It's so important for Americans to know that the traffic in drugs finances the work of terror, sustaining terrorists, that terrorists use drug profits to fund their cells to commit acts of murder," Bush said. "If you quit drugs, you join the fight against terror in America."

US officials have accused Saudi-born

fugitive Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, as well as their hosts, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, of supporting themselves with illicit drug profits.

With the US-led war forcing the Taliban to flee and an interim coalition government ready to take power on Dec. 22, Washington is keen to get rid of opium stockpiles in Afghanistan and to stop farmers from planting more poppies.

"The Taliban were a drug trafficking government," Steven Casteel, assistant ad-

ministrator for intelligence at the US Drug Enforcement Administration said earlier this month. But he, and other experts, noted that the Northern Alliance, which has led the effort on the ground to oust the Taliban, were also heavily involved in the drug trade.

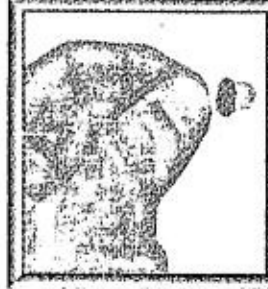
On the home front, Bush took aim at the Democratic administration of his predecessor, Bill Clinton, for failing to build on successes in the war on drugs under previous Republican presidents, including his father, George Bush.

Reuters

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For months now, the campaign to restore peace and order in Basilan has taken its toll in the lives, homes and livelihood of those who live there. Amidst this hostile environment, it is the children who suffer the most. They are faced with a very uncertain future.

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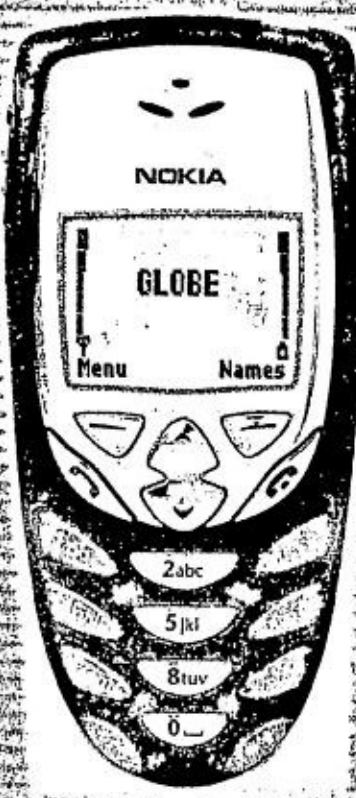
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Glen Miller killed by 'friendly fire,' documentary says

LONDON—It has been one of the most enduring mysteries of entertainment history.

On the night of Dec. 15, 1944, American big band leader Glen Miller, the hottest pop star of the war-time era, left an airbase in southeast England to entertain US soldiers in Paris.

Within minutes his plane had disappeared in fog and Miller was never seen again.

Wild theories about his demise sprang up—from his torture and death at the hands of the Nazis to the less respectful rumor that he had died in the arms of a Paris prostitute and it had all been hushed up.

But a documentary to be shown on British television claims to have unraveled the mystery: Miller was victim of "friendly fire," a hail of British bombs blowing his tiny single-engine Noorduyn Norseman plane out of the sky, the Guardian newspaper reported on Saturday.

Documentary-makers believe that a fleet of 139 Lancaster bombers returning on the fateful night from an abortive mission over Nazi Germany dumped their payload into the English Channel—and right onto Miller's plane.

In a recently uncovered amateur film interview, Fred Shaw, a navigator on one of the Lancasters, said he saw the bombs hit a small plane beneath him, the paper said.

"I had never seen a bombing before so I crawled from my navigator seat and put my head in the observation blister. I saw a small high-wing monoplane, a Noorduyn Norseman, underneath," Shaw reportedly said in the interview recorded before his death several years ago.

"There's a kite down there," I told the rear-gunner. "There's a kite gone in." He said "Yes, I saw it."

Shaw did not make the connection with Miller until 1956 when he saw the film "The Glen Miller Story."

But with several unanswered questions remaining, his claims were dismissed at the time as publicity seeking. However, the paper said new research into Miller's flight path and time had left little room for doubt.

The documentary is to be screened on Britain's Channel Four on New Year's Eve.

Reuters

Israel sends tanks into Gaza, imposes unprecedented curfew

GAZA CITY—Israeli tanks and troops launched major incursions into the Gaza Strip overnight, killing at least one Palestinian and imposing an unprecedented curfew, Palestinian security sources said early Saturday.

As tanks rolled into the town of Rafah, on the southern Gaza border with Egypt, Israeli troops opened fire with machine guns in the Tal al-Sultan area, 600 meters inside Palestinian territory. One Palestinian man was killed in that action at around midnight, the sources said.

About an hour later, in the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli troops, backed by a dozen tanks and bulldozers, made a major incursion into the town of Beit Hanun.

Apache helicopters overflew the military operation, which was launched from several directions, but did not fire any missiles.

The soldiers fired at Palestinian police patrolling the border between the northern Gaza Strip and Israel proper, wounding four officers, one seriously, the Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli forces penetrated four kilometers inside Palestinian territory reaching the center of Beit Hanun, with heavy exchange of fire with armed Palestinians, leaving another two people injured, the same sources said.

Once there the Israelis imposed a curfew, using loudhailers to order local residents to stay indoors.

It is the first time Israel has imposed a curfew in a Gaza Strip town since the Palestinian Authority was set up in 1994.

Israeli troops took up positions around the house of a local leader of the Palestinian Hamas movement, Salah Shata, while another house was destroyed, the Palestinian sources said.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks on Israelis including recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Haifa and Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Late Friday, Israeli F-16 fighter



SMOKE rises over the Palestinian police headquarters in the Gaza Strip after it was hit by missiles from Israeli warplanes Dec. 14. Israeli F-16 fighter planes dropped at least two bombs on a Palestinian security target in Gaza City on Friday, in the latest retaliatory military strike for a wave of Palestinian attacks. REUTERS

planes carried out raids on Palestinian security targets in Gaza, for the third night running.

The latest raids left 17 people injured, including women and children, a hospital source said.

The Israeli Army said that it had

targeted the headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's elite Force-17 guard. That attack was a response to Palestinian mortar fire on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the Army said.

After the air raids, a Palestinian

mortar shell was fired at another Israeli settlement at Gush Katif without causing any injuries, the Army added.

Elsewhere, according to Palestinian witnesses, eight Israeli tank shells were fired toward the autonomous Pal-

estian town of Khan Yunes, abutting Gush Katif, damaging four homes.

Since the start of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in September 2000, some 1,100 people have been killed, including 841 Palestinians and 233 Israelis. AFP

3 held in India suicide attack probe

SRINAGAR, India—Police in Indian administered Kashmir said on Saturday they arrested three people as part of their probe into the suicide attack on the national parliament last Thursday when 12 people died.

"Following leads from New Delhi, three people were arrested on Friday in Baramulla district. Police are investigating their links with the attack," a police source said.

The three suspects were being flown to New Delhi on Saturday for interrogation, the source said. "The

raids were carried out jointly by Delhi police and Kashmir police in Sopore township of Baramulla district."

Baramulla district lies north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

New Delhi newspapers reported that police had also arrested two people at the city's Indira Gandhi international airport in connection with the attack.

"We had been following intelligence tip-offs about the movement of suspects and (zeroed in) on these two,"

the Hindustan Times daily quoted a police official as saying.

He said one of them was on his way to Atlanta in the United States and the other was leaving for Toronto, Canada.

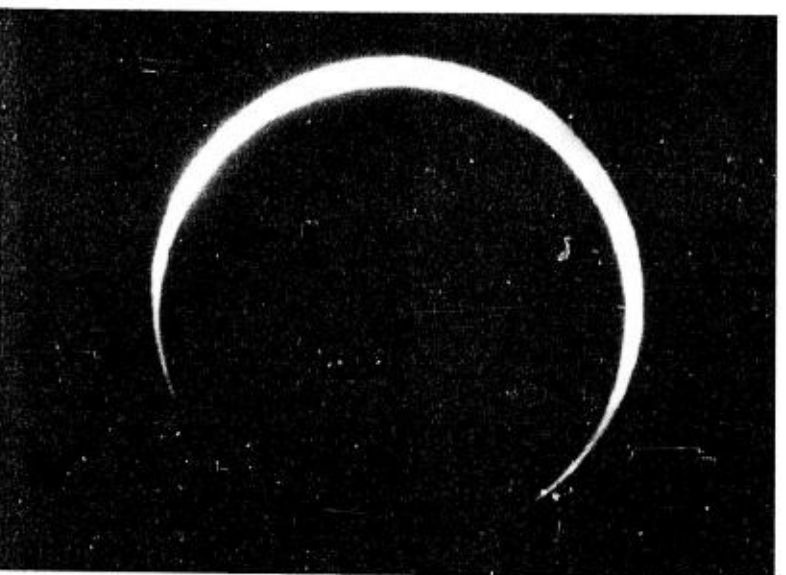
Twelve people, including all five assailants, were killed in a gunbattle when a suicide squad stormed the Indian parliamentary complex in New Delhi.

India blamed a Pakistan-based Islamic guerrilla group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the bloodbath, but the group has denied responsibility.

Police have also carried out raids at hotels in the old city area of the capital and were questioning agents who sold the car used in the attack, the daily reported.

A police official declined to confirm the reports when contacted by Reuters.

On Friday, Indian External Relations Minister Jaswant Singh said New Delhi had "technical evidence" the attack was carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba and called on Pakistan to freeze the activities of the group. Reuters



MASKED SUN

At 4:32 p.m. local time, light from the sun was blocked by the moon during an annular solar eclipse photographed on Hermosa Beach along the Pacific coast in Liberia, 450 km north of the capital city San Jose, Dec. 14. An annular eclipse occurs when the moon crosses exactly in front of the sun, but the size of the lunar disc is not large enough to completely cover the solar disc.

US move on ABM could spur arms race—Annan

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan regretted on Friday Washington's decision to abandon the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, fearing it could spark an arms race.

"The ABM treaty has served for many years as a cornerstone for maintaining global peace and security and strategic stability," UN spokesperson Manoel de Almeida e Silva said.

Annan, he said, was concerned that abandoning the treaty would "provoke an arms race, especially in the missile area, and further undermine disarmament and nonproliferation regimes."

The secretary general called on all countries to explore "new binding and irreversible initiatives to

avert such unwelcome effects," Almeida e Silva said.

"The ABM treaty has served for many years as a cornerstone for maintaining global peace and security and strategic stability," he said. Annan had "noted with regret" the US decision.

Rejecting Russian and Chinese opposition, President George W. Bush gave formal notice on Thursday that the United States was abandoning the treaty in order to press ahead with a missile defense system.

The decision marked the first time in recent history that the United States has withdrawn from a major international arms treaty. The ABM expressly forbids deployment of missile defenses. Reuters



WILL THEY OBJECT THIS TIME?

Model Rebecca Hockey displays possum fur nipple warmers and a possum fur-string in Nelson, New Zealand, Dec. 13. With an estimated 80 million possums in New Zealand that eat their way through an estimated 21 tons of native vegetation a night, the New Zealand Nature Company, under the brand of Eco Fur, is making and marketing the lingerie accessories. REUTERS

2001, the year the unthinkable happened in Switzerland

By BRUNO FRANCESCHI

GENEVA—A mass shooting in a local parliament, the dramatic demise of a once-hallowed national airline and a fatal inferno in a key alpine road tunnel in safe and stable Switzerland—unthinkable 12 months ago.

But 2001 will go down in Swiss history as the year the unthinkable happened—three times. Old certainties about Switzerland as a haven of peace, security and prosperity have been challenged.

Shaken by the realization that it is not immune from the cruel realities faced elsewhere, the succession of disasters for the Swiss since Sept. 11 has also prompted difficult questions.

Is it the end of the "Sonderfall"—a self-dubbed epithet meaning exception, special case?

"Everyone has the feeling that the beautiful Swiss clock is no longer giving the right time, but opinions are divided over the causes and remedies," commented Swiss newspaper Le Temps recently.

In fact, the hands of the clock started slowing down before the US terror attacks when, in April, bosses at the national flag carrier Swissair announced a record loss of 1.9 billion euros (\$1.7 billion).

The revelation by Switzerland's "flying bank," global bearer of the distinct white cross on a red background

since 1930, was a huge shock for thousands of shareholders who had always regarded their investment as safe.

Despite former Nestlé chief Mario Corti's arrival, boosting hopes for a revival, the struggling airline failed to stay aloft in the wake of the Sept. 11 downturn. The death knell sounded for Swissair when its fleet was grounded amid mounting debts.

The airline could not pay for fuel for a humiliating two days. Quasi-bankruptcy followed, then redundancies and the buying up of some Swissair aircraft by its former subsidiary Crossair.

Initial reluctance by the state to intervene finally gave way, and a mas-

sive state-backed cash injection appeared on the horizon in a bid to save Switzerland's airline industry.

Hot on the heels of September's US attack, Switzerland witnessed a massacre on its own soil, at the heart of its famed system of direct democracy. A gunman armed up to the hilt stormed into the Zug local parliament on Sept. 27 and shot dead 14 local politicians.

The shock was immense. Switzerland was confronted with the kind of mass murder usually reported by the media in the United States, and apparently motivated by a simple grudge with a local busdriver.

The shooting reopened the debate

about Swiss laws and attitudes toward arms in a country where men tend to keep their weapons at home when not in use during their annual military service.

But the debate was soon overshadowed when the country was plunged into mourning again. A collision between two trucks in the St. Gotthard tunnel linking north western Europe and Italy sparked a blaze that killed 11.

The 17-kilometer tunnel—the world's second longest—had always been considered safe in a country where security and prevention are key words and which is full of civil defense measures, anti-atomic bunkers, rules and regulations.

The Swiss clock slipped another gear when the Geneva-based World Economic Forum announced it was turning its back on the chic Swiss ski resort of Davos which has hosted its annual gathering for the last 30 years.

Business and political elite will instead meet in New York at the end of January after the Swiss government and local authorities failed to agree over the forum's security.

Violent demonstrations have accompanied the annual meetings in recent years.

"The image of our country abroad is tarnished and the 'others' now look at us, amused or condescending, as a normal country," Le Temps said. AFP

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

NBI, customs execs probed on shabu snafu

By MALOU GUANZON-APALISOK
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Officials of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Customs are facing investigation for allegedly allowing about 100 kilos of shabu worth P200 million to slip from their hands during an "elaborate" entrapment operation.

Members of the House committees on dangerous drugs and the public order and security initiated the probe after a large shipment of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) disappeared last month despite the joint operation by the NBI and the Customs.

During the congressional inquiry on illegal drugs conducted in Manila on Tuesday, the NBI and the BOC officials were summoned to shed light on last month's exposé of Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan on the missing shabu.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, said he could not understand how a large shipment of illegal drugs could disappear when the NBI and the Customs had laid out an entrapment operation to arrest those responsible.

The committees ordered BOC and NBI officials to submit their reports and narrate the events on the case of the missing shabu in the next hearing scheduled next Tuesday.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco told the House committees that his office received a tip from South Korean authorities in Seoul on Nov. 12 that about 100 kilos of shabu was bound for Manila via Hong Kong.

He said the shipment would be hidden in a cargo of vermicelli and would be transported to Manila in a 40-foot container van.

But at the close of the hearing, Wycoco read from a supposed recent communication from South Korean officials informing him that the illegal drugs hidden in the noodle shipment contained only 500 grams.

He said the cargo arrived shortly after midnight of Nov. 17 on board the Manila Star. After two days in the Customs container yard No. 3, the shipment was released reportedly without the knowledge of NBI

officials.

According to NBI official Vicente de Guzman, who was in charge of the team that monitored the cargo, he immediately conducted a probe to determine how the release happened.

This even as De Guzman earlier assigned NBI lawyer Timoteo Pineda and an agent named Suarez to monitor the shipment and to coordinate with customs officials.

De Guzman told the committees that Pineda and Suarez, together with Customs Enforcement and Security Services Director Virgilio Danao, agreed on a "controlled delivery" operation. This meant allowing the release of illegal cargo to its destination where the arrest will be made.

De Guzman said Danao assured him that the operation was being closely monitored by customs authorities and that it takes two to three hours to process the release of the cargo.

Since the NBI office is near the BOC area, he said it was understood that NBI agents would take the signal to tail the van after customs authorities would have fed them the necessary information through cell phone.

The call did not come. Danao said he thought that NBI agents were around the customs container yard guarding the cargo of shabu.

The BOC, through Ariel Lacap who reportedly processed the papers, released the cargo van containing illegal drugs at a little past 12 noon on Nov. 20 to Santo Cristo Trading with address at Binondo, Manila. NBI investigation later showed the trading firm was fictitious.

De Guzman said his agents tracked down the shipment in Guiguinto, Bulacan. Together with NBI agents in the area, De Guzman said they were able to trace the truck driver, who reportedly delivered the shipment to Baliwag.

The NBI team was able to recover the cargo van but without the shabu.

Wycoco said he immediately conducted an investigation of the snafu.

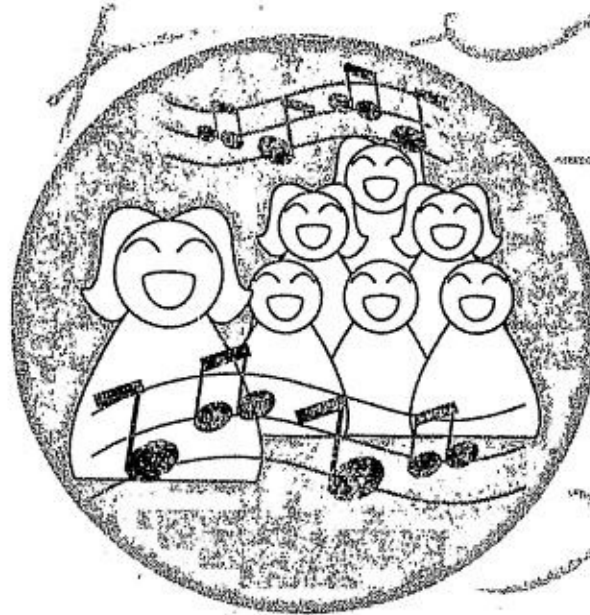
He said 21 people, including customs personnel and those who own the brokerage firm that facilitated the entry of the shipment to the country, were among those he recommended for prosecution.



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 24° Lo 13°
Yuguegarao	Partly cloudy with rain	HI 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 29° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Mostly cloudy with rain	HI 29° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Bacolod	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Mostly cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/12/15/01

ROUNDUP

156 human rights cases

BATANGAS CITY—The human rights group Karapatan-Timog Katagalugan claimed that 156 cases of human rights violations were committed in the region during the 11-month administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Task Force Tanggol Karapatan spokesperson Nancy Rada, on the other hand, said 50 Mangyans were now in her group's custody after being tagged as communist rebels and supporters. At least 80 military and police companies led by Task Force Banahaw have been deployed in Southern Tagalog, according to the human rights groups, but police said the figures were exaggerated.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Free health insurance

LUCENA CITY—At least 10,000 poor families in Calapan City are now covered by a city-funded health insurance program. The beneficiaries number about 60,000 persons or almost half of the city population, Mayor Arnan C. Panaligan said. He said the city government pays at least P8 million for the insurance premiums of the poor families with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Jueteng' goes on

LUCENA CITY—Supt. Alejandro Gutierrez, Oriental Mindoro police director, said more than 50 persons were arrested recently in Pinamalayan, Gloria and Bongabong towns for their alleged involvement in "jueteng." In Calapan City, collectors of "lotteng" solicit bets in the market and other public places. Gov. Bartolome Marasigan has ordered town mayors to stop jueteng and other illegal numbers game in the province. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gov's wish list

CEBU CITY—A moratorium on politicking tops the wish list of Gov. Pablo Garcia this Christmas. "The way we are practicing politics hinders progress," Garcia explained. The governor said he also hoped the season will not be dampened by the financial crunch felt by many Cebuano. He said he wished there will be no more re-trenchments and that many jobs will be offered. Debra Jane V. Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau

CSC upholds appointment

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Civil Service Commission has upheld the appointment of Liza Quirog as head of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist. The CSC issued Resolution No. 011812 dated Nov. 20, confirming that Quirog's appointment was not done in haste. It took into account that Quirog has been occupying the post in an acting capacity since June 19, 2000 although then Gov. Rene Relampagos appointed her only on June 1. The CSC in Central Visayas had revoked Quirog's appointment on the ground that it was a "midnight" appointment. Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Martyrs' marker unveiled

BANTAY, Ilocos Sur—A commemorative marker on the spot where Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan Jr. and his driver were killed was unveiled here on Saturday, Chan's 52nd birthday. The marker honored Chan and his driver Alex Ragacho for being "martyrs for the cause of truth and justice in Ilocos Sur." The two were ambushed along the national highway in Barangay Paing here on their way to Baguio City on Oct. 4. Their assailants are yet to be identified and arrested. Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ex-gov now ambassador

AGOO, La Union—President Macapagal-Arroyo swore in former La Union Gov. Justo Orros Jr. on Thursday as ambassador to Mexico. Orros, who was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments on Dec. 12, will have concurrent jurisdiction over five other Latin-American states. Orros obtained his Doctor of Laws degree from the Universidad de Madrid in Spain in 1961 and his Bachelor of Laws from the Ateneo de Manila in 1956. Gia Damaso Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Murder suspect nabbed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The primary suspect in the killing of three members of a family in Tuao, Cagayan, last year was arrested Thursday while undergoing treatment in a hospital here, a belated police report said. Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Cagayan police director, said Danny Corpuz was arrested while undergoing treatment for a bullet wound at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center here. Corpuz is the primary suspect in the Sept. 21, 2000 killing of Arturo Locquiao Sr., his wife Dulcesima and eldest daughter Jovelyn at Barangay Culung in Tuao, about 25 km from here.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov't grants amnesty to top NPA leader

But rebel not yet cleared of massacre, other 'heinous' crimes in Mindanao

BY ANTHONY A. ALLADA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—More than two years after his arrest, New People's Army leader Amado Payot, alias Kumander Benzar, has been granted amnesty by the government.

But the National Amnesty Commission (NAC), in an eight-page resolution, did not include the infamous Sitio Rano massacre in Davao del Sur and four other criminal cases filed against Payot.

NAC chair Alfredo Tadiar said Payot still has to face the other charges since these incidents were violations of human and political rights.

Tadiar, a former general, claimed that Payot was already cleared of the many atrocities he allegedly committed since he joined the communist movement on March 19, 1978.

Tadiar said the amnesty would take effect 15 days after Payot receives the directive and if no one opposes and moves for its reconsideration.

Based on the NAC resolution, Payot had committed 22 "heinous" cases against the government and the people before his arrest on March 2, 1998.

While in detention, Payot applied for amnesty before the Local Amnesty Board (LAB), based on Proclamation No. 21 of

then President Joseph Estrada.

On June 21 last year, the LAB officially conducted proceedings on Payot's application.

A week later, the board deferred ruling on the petition as it instead sent the amnesty petition to the LAB office in Davao City, which holds jurisdiction over Payot's criminal charges.

In April this year, the LAB-Davao suspended its decision on the matter since four survivors of the Rano massacre opposed the amnesty. The four claimed that the crimes Payot allegedly committed were heinous and barbaric.

"The killing ensued inside the Church

of Christ Philippines where a religious service was held, resulting to the loss of lives of many civilians and innocent children," the victims said.

Despite the opposition, the LAB-Davao granted amnesty to Payot on June 21, excluding the Rano massacre case and four others.

In its decision dated Dec. 5, the NAC sustained the ruling of the LAB-Davao and approved Payot's amnesty request.

Payot, former leader of the NPA's Front Committee 51 operating in Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte and North Cotabato, has reportedly gone back to the mountains to continue his fight against the government.



SMUGGLED MILITARY SUPPLIES

Senior Supt. Amado Paneda, public information officer in Camp Olivas in Pampanga, inspects some P4.5 million worth of US military supplies smuggled by a syndicate operating in Central Luzon. Police seized the items in Castillejos, Zambales, last week.

BERT BASA

AFP chief tells NPA: Keep word on ceasefire

LUCENA CITY—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva has called on the communist New People's Army "to be true to their words of peace."

Villanueva made the appeal on Friday at the turnover of command of the military's Southern Luzon Command in Camp Nakar, this city, and a day before the formal start of a unilateral ceasefire earlier declared by the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"I hope the NPA will remain true to its words and not do something in public and another thing in (reality)," Villanueva said.

He referred to the recent assassination of an Army captain and the burning of a Philtranco bus in Cebu City on Tuesday. The NPA claimed responsibility for both incidents.

The AFP chief also expressed hope that the NPA guerrillas would also "(minimize) the atrocities (against) the civilian (population)."

Villanueva said if the rebels were really sincere, they could give the freedom of these civilians as one meaningful Christmas present, not only to them but also to their families.

"Let us give our people the best and peaceful holiday season possible," he said.

Jan. 15

The NDF's ceasefire began yesterday and will end on Jan. 15.

For its part, the government, through its Cabinet oversight committee on national security, has decided to observe an 18-day traditional cessation of hostilities with the communist rebels until Jan. 6.

When asked if the military leadership will investigate the killing last week of a Dumagat tribal leader in Antipolo City, which is being blamed on the military, he said he always believed that the truth would come out.

"Why would our men kill the tribal leader? It's only part of NPA propaganda," Villanueva said.

But he quickly added that he was just expressing a personal opinion. "I'm not trying to immediately exonerate our men."

But I believe that it's just a part of the NPA propaganda that is being repeatedly addressed at us."

He said the NPA rebels were free to go home and visit their families during the ceasefire.

"We are on a ceasefire. For as long as they are not there to harm

and pose a threat to our detachments, it's okay."

Newly installed Solcom commander, Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, former 7th Infantry Division chief based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, said the ceasefire was very clear.

Safe conduct pass

"It can also be very well interpreted as a safe conduct pass. They are free to go home and enjoy the Christmas season," Carolina clarified.

He said the country has had enough and that more than 30 years of insurgency was too much for any country to bear.

"And they claim also that there are urgent programs that have to be done for the people. I think we are in congruence (with) that. It's high time that we work together," Carolina added.

He said Filipinos had wasted "so much energy, so much money, so much effort in a useless war."

He urged all concerned to take advantage of the temporary time and space to experiment and do their best to accomplish something during this limited period.

"Who knows, we might both agree to whatever that may come out during this period? If that happens, we will just both continue the peace effort," Carolina said.

Mixed feelings

Maj. Gerald Velez, Solcom spokesperson, said the soldiers in the field had mixed feelings about the NPA-declared ceasefire.

"They want to relax and spend Christmas with peace in their hearts. But they still have to be on guard," he said.

Col. Efron Orbon, chief of Task Force Makiling that operates in the Calabarzon area, said, "Our troops are ready for the NPA rebels should they break the rules of the ceasefire."

He said that as long as the rebels do not carry guns, they could freely visit their families.

Col. Jovito Palparan Jr., commanding officer of the 204th Infantry Brigade based in Mindoro, said, "If the NPA in the island of Mindoro would like to have a ceasefire, it would be better for both of us and the people."

He reiterated that any NPA member was free to visit and spend Christmas with his family without fear of harassment by the military. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rare turtle species found

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Fishermen have found a rare species of marine turtles nesting in the beach of Sitio Tagminatay, Barangay Bacungan, here.

They immediately reported their discovery of the Olive Ridley, considered to be the smallest turtle in the world, to the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro).

Cenro Protected Areas and Wildlife Services head Adam Ausan said he was surprised to see the Olive Ridley.

Ausan said it was the first time they had a tagging for this turtle species.

He said that like the Leatherback turtles, the Olive Ridley turtles were very rare these days. They can only be found in the China Sea and sometimes in the seas off Zambales.

The Olive Ridley weighs about 45 kilos and is 28 centimeters long.

Ausan said the heaviest Olive Ridley would weigh only 50 kilos and the biggest would be 75 cm long.

It is the only turtle species that exhibits mass, synchronized nesting. It can be identified through its drab olive green shells and has six scutes (scales) on both sides.

The Olive Ridley was released to the sea after

the tagging.

Ausan said the turtles were marked within six hours because it would render the turtle infertile if they touched it after that period.

Residents who found the turtle were given baseball caps bearing "Save the marine environment" from the DENR as a token of appreciation and proof that they saved an endangered species.

Since January, the Cenro has tagged 41 turtles, most of them hawksbill and green turtles. Most of the turtles were saved from Chinese fishermen caught poaching inside Philippine territory.

Meanwhile, a sea cow, locally known as dugong, was found slaughtered inside a fish pen in Sitio Katumbol.

Some residents said they saw two men hacking the animal. They fled in their boat when they saw barangay officials and the owner of the fish pen approaching.

The dugong was about 56 inches long and weighs about 100 kilos.

Residents and volunteers from the private Environment Legal Assistance Center buried the sea cow near the area where it was found. Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

From ketchup containers to Christmas lanterns

BY CARMELA REYES
PDI Central Luzon Desk

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—Even during hard times, Filipinos cannot forego the celebration of Christmas. So they will not hesitate to hang Christmas decors made from scrap materials to brighten up the holiday mood.

A 68-year-old craftsman in this town has turned otherwise unusable plastic ketchup containers into Christmas centerpiece.

Jose Marcelo, a former printing press supervisor who found interest in recycling materials, discovered that he could make simple yet beautiful Christmas lanterns out of empty plastic ketchup containers.

Marcelo discovered lantern making by accident.

He said his sister-in-law, a school principal, asked him to make improvised flowerpots for her school.

By using empty half-gallon and one-gallon plastic containers as materials for the flowerpots, Marcelo said he realized that he could also transform these into lanterns.

He crafted one lantern and displayed it in front of his eatery on MacArthur Highway here.

Since then, his lantern has attracted a stream

of interested people and buyers.

Marcelo said he pieced together the plastic containers with wire to form a star and accented it with "leaves" made also of the plastic containers.

He puts four light bulbs inside a lantern and spends about P85 for doing the Christmas pieces.

Marcelo spends about five hours making the lantern and sells it for P400 to P500.

Buyers from Baliuag, San Rafael, Plaridel, Balagtas, Bocaue and Guiguinto towns have been buying Marcelo's lanterns.

Twenty of his lanterns are on display in front of the 8 Waves Waterpark Resort along the Doña Remedios Trinidad Highway in Baliuag.

"My family and I are very grateful to the 8 Waves owners because they recognized my work by displaying the lanterns. Because of this, many people started asking for these lanterns and the resort's owners referred them to me," he said in Filipino.

Marcelo said he had made 35 lanterns for barangay officials and residents in Valenzuela City, Cabanatuan City and San Jose del Monte City.

He said he can make only one lantern a day but because of the demand, he must make two from morning until night.



JOSE Marcelo works on his Christmas creation from recycled containers.

CARMELA REYES

INQUIRER Mindanao

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

'They think all Tausugs are Sayyaf'

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
Sulu

BELIEVE me, brother, not even his own mother could have recognized him.

This was part of a conversation intercepted on a transceiver when the nephew of the victim recounted to a friend how they found his uncle near the spot where he and three others had been shot by soldiers pursuing the Abu Sayyaf.

"You know very well that our family has never been involved with this plague (rough translation of the Tausug word he used to describe the Abu Sayyaf), but they (the military) do not know this, so they think all Tausugs are Abu Sayyaf," he continued.

His uncle, he said, was placed on a military truck, together with the other victims, but somehow fell off, and according to witnesses, the truck went on reverse, ran over him, and did so again as they drove off. That is why they had difficulty picking up the pieces of his body from the ground, he said.

He was actually explaining to his friend, also unidentified, why he failed to show up for their appointment. At the time of the conversation, he could not tell where the three others were brought or whether they survived, as they had not as yet been found.

Unreported cases

This and many other similar cases are not reported to agencies like the Joint Civil-Military Area Coordinating Center (JMACC) which has its offices at the provincial capitol, much less the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

None of the numerous complaints already filed with the JMACC since the Sipadan hostage crisis last year have been resolved, except cases where the corpses are actually found, either by the family or operatives of the agency.

Take, for example, the case of a 23-year-old man whose mother had reported that he had been arrested because soldiers at a checkpoint had found a pair of fatigue pants among his clothes as they were evacuating their village.

Amirbahar Amilasan, executive officer of the JMACC, said that it was very difficult to resolve these cases because families of the



RESIDENTS of Patikul town in Sulu leave their homes for fear of another attack by Misuari followers.

victims have been constantly on the run, as the military continues operations in the countryside.

"The fast-developing events do not even allow us enough time to really sit down and concentrate on these cases," he said, citing the frequent evacuations, the elections and the attacks on the military and police by forces loyal to former Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

But they have referred the complaints to the CHR and furnished copies to the Office of the President. No actions have been taken so far, according to Amilasan.

Temporary posts

He said his office was advised that prosecuting these cases now could affect the morale of government soldiers who are relentlessly pursuing both the Abu Sayyaf and the Misuari loyalists, who have renewed threats to launch another attack on the town of Jolo.

Amilasan also said that another difficulty they were facing in resolving complaints of alleged military abuses was that the subjects of the complaints were very mobile, usually belonging to augmentation units.

Accounts from evacuees tend to show that troops on temporary assignment in the province

are those frequently involved in alleged abuses.

Amilasan said their more immediate concern was assisting refugees even as he disclosed that such help had not yet arrived.

Lawyer Ulka Ulama, who heads the committee on human rights of the Sulu-Tawi-Tawi Bar Association Inc. which he represents in the JMACC, strongly recommended a ceasefire to give the agency time to attend to the refugees.

People have crowded all available refugee centers in the wake of the operations and threats from Misuari's group.

Eid'l Fitr

"If the government should negotiate with these elements, they should negotiate before the fighting, not after so many have already been killed, because that would be useless," Ulama said, adding that no amount of assistance to the evacuees will solve the problem of Sulu residents if these attacks and counterattacks will not be stopped.

Citing the "Camp Abubakar experience," Ulama said that after all the fighting that killed hundreds of people and displaced entire barangays, the government entered into negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"We should have learned from it," said Ulama, who is also president of the local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Amilasan said residents of Lower Liang in Patikul, where thousands fled their homes because of military operations after the Nov. 19 attacks, have asked that the military now occupying their village be pulled out so they can return to observe the feast of the Eid'l Fitr.

The JMACC forwarded the request to military authorities on Dec. 12 and he expected an immediate reply, Amilasan said.

Muslims will celebrate the feast, Hari-Raya Puasa, this weekend, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

The JMACC was organized during the administration of former Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan, when complaints from aggrieved residents have piled up since September 2000.

It was ordered reactivated by Gov. Yusop Jikiri, convening the regular members at a meeting.

The JMACC is composed of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Integrated Public Health Office, Philippine National Red Cross, Office of Muslim Affairs, Committee on Human Rights (STTBAL), provincial police office and the 104th Army Brigade.

In defense of Sister John

BY MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION
San Luis, Agusan del Sur

MEMBERS of religious groups have convened to condemn military harassment against Sr. Mary John Dumaog of the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS).

Sr. Mary Regina Pil, RGS Provincial Councilor for the Philippines, said their congregation was treating the attack on Dumaog as one aimed at their group itself. She said the military could not directly attack the congregation as it is a large entity.

The RGS is an international congregation established in 67 countries with representation to the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

For 23 years, the RGS in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, has been serving the Manobo and Banwaon communities, and have put up 13 schools in hinterland barangays.

"We protest the military's harassment of Sr. John Dumaog and we wish to remind the military of their sworn duty to be protectors of our people and nation," Pil said.

Earlier, an Army-backed rally was held in San Luis town to drive out Dumaog for her alleged involvement with the communist movement.

Dumaog, however, downplayed the rally, saying it was staged by people who not only were not part of the RGS program but were also just forced by the military to attend and did not know what it was for.

Soldiers' rally

She added that Army brigade officials in civilian clothes were seen during the rally and that its spokespersons were Army regulars.

San Luis Mayor Jose Chua, however, said he could not drive out Dumaog since she has helped so many people, especially the *lumads*.

Col. Juanito Cabayao, chief of the 402nd Infantry Brigade based in Agusan del Sur, had earlier accused Dumaog of convincing the local Manobo and Banwaon tribesmen to work in a communal farm.

In a press statement, Cabayao said Dumaog owned more than 2,000 hectares of ancestral land and appeared to be purchasing more agricultural areas at a "ridiculous price" of P2,000 per hectare.

Col. Francisco Simbahon, spokesperson of the brigade, also said in radio interviews that Dumaog was no longer a nun and was using funds from foreign donors to support the communist New People's Army.

Dumaog said the land being questioned was bought by the congregation to put up a demo farm where *lumads* can learn integrated farming as a response to the Jubilee Year's call to "renew the face of the earth."

Dialogue

The nun also said the accusation that she was no longer a nun was absurd and an affront to her dignity as a religious person.

A dialogue between Simbahon and the RGS in San Luis was held in November to address the issues raised by both parties.

Simbahon apologized to Dumaog and the RGS sisters, saying they only did it (spreading rumors) to force the dialogue.

"Thank you for enlightening us on issues concerning your programs. We will close this issue once and for all and have a fresh start," Simbahon had declared.

But Dumaog complained that Simbahon and other Army officials still continued their attacks in radio interviews and during the rally.

"In the rally, they used Army regulars disguised as ordinary citizens to malign me and our congregation," Dumaog lamented.

Sr. Mary Jeanette Rimando, who spent her sabbatical leave in San Luis and witnessed the dialogue, exclaimed, "How can they fabricate lies when they are supposed to be dignified soldiers of the Philippines. But they have the courage to lambaste Sister John when they already apologized in the dialogue."

Obet de Castro, secretary general of the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), said the harassments were reminiscent of the crackdown on religious groups during the Marcos regime.

Tribe closes chapter with the NPA

BY BUTCH D. ENERIO
San Luis, Agusan del Sur

THE BANWAONS in the hinterland village of Binicalan in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, have shown that with hard work and the right attitude, they can realize their aspirations for self-determination as an indigenous people.

They have more to be proud of nowadays. With their 33-year-old chieftain, Datu Manbiyaye "Benjor" Mansulunay, and his brand of leadership, they have transformed themselves from a people of want to self-reliant, productive members of their community.

In the early 1980s, Mansulunay and 18 of his male followers joined the communist New People's Army, but not for long. He realized that as a chieftain, what he should work for was the welfare of his tribe and not die for a cause of the non-*lumads* that he did not understand.

He said their stint with the communist underground movement was brought about by circumstance, not by choice.

In 1980, Mansulunay narrated, a nun came to their village and promised that with their cooperation, his tribe would enjoy development and his people would gain education so that they will no longer become victims of oppression.

"The nun convinced us that with her help, we could improve the living conditions of my tribe, and my people would have access to education, so that eventually, we will no longer live in poverty," Mansulunay said.

During the years that his tribe was associated with the nun, he said, they were made to believe that they were the most deprived sector of society and that the government should be blamed for their condition.

"She was campaigning that we should hate the government and



PRO-MILITARY tribal members stage rally in San Luis, Agusan del Sur.

fight its tools of oppression, like the military. Thus we became members of the NPA," Mansulunay said.

Surrender

After about a year and a half since they joined the NPA in 1982, he sensed that none of the things that the nun had promised was ever realized. He decided to surrender to the government, bringing along his 18 followers.

As rebel returnees, they received benefits from the government. The military supported them until they got their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim.

Despite the support of government agencies tasked with rehabilitating the lives of former rebels, Mansulunay and his tribe did not sit and wait for results. He relentlessly followed up their papers until they eventually formed a cooperative.

"Before, my people were like other members of other tribes who were preoccupied with day-to-day existence and had little regard for the future," he said.

They now have the Banwaon Multi-Purpose Cooperative based at Kilometer 55, known as Side II of San Luis town. The tribal folk have gradually learned to lead contented lives, because their everyday needs can be obtained from

the cooperative store.

The store started in 1997 with a capitalization of P12,500 that the 48 pioneering members contributed. Based on the latest audit report, the total assets of the cooperative were already worth P560,000 while membership reached more than a hundred.

Permanent site

With a legitimate claim of their ancestral domain, many Banwaons under Mansulunay have learned to settle in a permanent area and engage in farming. Some continue being nomadic, but Mansulunay said they should not be stopped as it was part of their culture.

"Since we rejoined the mainstream of society, a lot of good things have happened to my people. One of these was a change in their outlook in life. They have become productive members of society and have realized the value of hard work and perseverance," Mansulunay said.

Because of their determination, he said, his tribe was able to get the support of various sectors, especially those coming from the municipal and provincial governments, and the military, "which before were nonexistent if we depended solely on the government to act on and address our plight."

"As a *lumad* leader, my only consolation is to see my tribe prosper without having to destroy our customs and traditions," Mansulunay said.

Education goals

With the assignment of teachers to their village by the municipal government, their community has already produced elementary and high school graduates and was optimistic that someday, the tribe will have professionals, he said.

Mansulunay recalled that during their association with the nun and with the NPA, his tribe's values were so eroded that his people have learned to be deceitful contrary to their customs and the teachings of their elders.

"We lied most of the time, because in the underground movement, nothing was transparent. Everyone was suspicious of each other," he said.

Because of the sad experience, he said, he has instituted a character-building process essential in promoting harmony among his people.

Since then, he said, alcoholic beverage has been prohibited from being sold by the cooperative to tribal members, "I've learned that in the past, my people were most of the time drunk, and they were unproductive and troublesome," he said.

And in order to instill hard work that would translate to income, Mansulunay has imposed a no-work-no-eat policy among his people. The credit program was open to non-members, provided that a Banwaon beneficiary has planted crops. This meant not only an assurance that he can pay, but also to instill in his mind the value of sustaining the work-for-food scheme to the tribe.

"Unlike in the past, one can no longer see a Banwaon in my tribe go hungry. We are producing enough food that every household in our village enjoy three square meals a day," Mansulunay proudly claimed. "There are even provisions for snacks."

The glow is godly; but stylists help

(From page A1)

Ms Macapagal's dramatic transformation began when freelance hair and makeup artist Leo Espinosa chopped off her locks last February. He noted that her medium-length hair was limp and dry because it was overly sprayed with lacquer.

The length also tended to drag her face and the black haircoloring was too severe. Espinosa created a short layered look with the hair parted on the side. A subtle voluminous wave on the top gave her face a lift.

Feathery layers hugged her nape drew attention to her chiseled features. He used a medium brown haircoloring to flatter her dusky skin tone.

Espinosa recalled that when the President appeared on television at the height of Edsa III without any makeup, she still exuded equanimity amid crisis with a neat hairstyle that had shape and body.

Understated makeup

"With her hair in place, she looked like she was still in command," he said.

Espinosa recommended understated makeup. From her raccoon-eyed look, the strong eye shadow and heavily lined underlashes, and mismatched lipstick, the President now wears a soft wash of brown on the eyelids, subtle blusher for a natural glow and a light-colored lipstick shade.

He taught Ms Macapagal's stylist, Gener Miranda, styling and makeup techniques to complement the President's features. Anytime her hairdo tended to look like a beret from too much blow-drying, Espinosa would keep Miranda in check.

Size 6 to 0

In the wardrobe department, she would be criticized for wearing outlandish prints, frumpy, badly proportioned clothes and mismatched shoes that overwhelmed her diminutive frame.

Designers Inno Sotto and J.C. Buendia eased her transition by producing what has become her signature, a suit and a coatdress. The brevity of design aimed at making the pe-

tite president look taller and also allowed her to express her individuality through her heirloom jewelry.

The first thing that designers observed was the President's dramatic weight loss. In an interview with the INQUIRER, she revealed that her size fluctuated between size 6 and 0. "I'm quite flexible like an accordion," she said.

The simple silhouettes mostly A-lines and three-quarter length proportions, augured well for her busy lifestyle and made her look slimmer. They also suited her no-fuss, no-frills personality.

She is said to favor red, the color of her zodiac sign Aries. Buendia chose basic solid colors for her. Sotto introduced a lighter range such as periwinkle, popple orange, sky blue, butter yellow and peach to lighten up her dusky complexion. When she wore black, he would add bright colors such as fuchsia or green close to her face to add glow to her face.

Proportion critical

In the past the petite President was overwhelmed with overscaled proportions, thick belts and superfluous details.

"The proportion is critical," said Sotto. The jackets stopped at the first hip to complement her delicate frame and to draw attention away from her tush of which she is said to be conscious of.

The hemlines grazed at the

knees to make her legs look longer. The tone of her shoes should match the tone of her suit, to create the illusion of a long line. Sotto recommended Janilyn to make her shoes since the manufacturer uses lasts patterned after European shoes.

At the INQUIRER's anniversary party, the President wore a collarless midnight blue coatdress in crepe, accented with rhinestone buttons and embroidered cuffs, with matching slingbacks. Sheer stockings in eggshell white contrasted the look.

The President would not reveal brands or names of designers. She feigned that she didn't know the label on her outfit. It was unmistakably Sotto's.

Asked if she's made fashion mistakes, Ms Macapagal replied nonchalantly,

THEN: Outlandish prints, frumpy, badly proportioned wardrobe.



'Plain Bill,' Baguio's antique Santa

(From page A1)

come hell or high water.

After a two-year absence as a graying, candy-throwing Santa Claus, Californian William Galvin, 58, flew into Baguio on Wednesday and dusted off his red suit.

The next day he made a quick public appearance around the city market in search of street children.

"We're scared of him," a boy said while Galvin's bear hug.

But longtime residents who saw Galvin at a fast-food counter Thursday were swamped with memories of the man. "Yes, he's that Santa who gave out hard candies," said Jorge, 34, now a teacher in a local college. "Kids followed him everywhere on Session Road. I think I used to tug my dad so he'd stop walking, because I needed to see that Santa. But I never got to meet him."

Galvin said sustaining the Christmas spirit had been his passion since 1974, when a reporter asked him to play Santa Claus at an annual Baguio holiday program.

"I didn't even have a beard then," he said. "I had on this fake beard, (which was) white all over. But I decided to grow my own. (It) took me seven years to get a good (beard). I've

had this ever since."

Fixture

Galvin's gray-eyed Santa became a holiday fixture.

He frequented the old Pines Hotel and the Hyatt Terraces Baguio before the 1990 earthquake, and was a favorite party guest for many community affairs.

"I was invited by the Vergara family 14 years ago, and I played Santa, and I got the best gifts ever—a ham and a bottle of brandy. I don't do this for money. I just tell them to feed me," Galvin recalled.

"Now I'm finally back and this Vergara fellow's the mayor," he added, referring to Bernardo Vergara, now city mayor after three terms as Baguio congressman.

Galvin said he had not been around for many Christmases in the last 10 years and had only managed to squeeze in a couple of days in 1999 to do the St. Nick gig.

"Just plain Bill" to his friends, Galvin is an itinerant antique dealer who spends each year shuttling from Baguio to Mt. Province, from Thailand to the interior parts of Asia and back to California, carrying the best Ibaloi or Bontoc weaves and baskets and Thai figurines.

Then he hits the road in America's

southwest to sell these treasures.

Galvin said it was a job he willingly embraced after an engineering stint on an American oil tanker that refueled US military ships and planes off the military bases in the Philippines and Japan.

"I spend most of my time here," he said. "Baguio is my center. But I travel to Thailand or the Mt. Province and I spend two months of a year in the United States."

Depression

Galvin has been a transient Baguio resident for almost 26 years although his Samar-born wife and two sons live here.

He said he saw new relevance in playing Santa when he began connecting the mass depression that stemmed from the Sept. 11 attacks in America with the flight of tourists from tourist-friendly Thailand.

He flew to the Philippines from a long trip around Thailand.

"(The terrorist attack on US soil) hit everyone pretty badly," he said. "I saw it back home and I saw it hitting Thailand. I was there a few weeks ago and tourists were not around. Thailand must have lost about 40 percent. Back here, except for the Americans who live here, I did not see any tourists."

Galvin said he had aborted a trip to

"Most probably."

Arroyo admitted that she gets both praise and unfavorable feedback about her style, yet they can't bother her.

"I'm not fashion conscious. It's not important to me," reiterated the President.

Chinese skincare

She was amused when asked about her skincare brand. She replied that she grabs whatever she sees. "At this moment, I'm using a Chinese brand which I picked up during my state visit to China," she said with a giggle.

Arroyo also declined to name her fragrances although she likes the freshness of light and floral scents. "Oriental is very sophisticated and mysterious. I'm not like that," she said.

The most challenging part of a working woman is keeping her nails groomed.

"I'm very focused on my work. My nails chip all the time," she said. One of her staffers in the linen room knows how to manicure. Every day she inspects the state of the President's nail polish. The President doesn't have enough time for a full manicure and pedicure. One day, her nails are cleaned. They are varnished the next day, then a pedicure the day after next. Her nails are groomed while her hair is being styled in the morning. At this time Arroyo reads the Bible to be spiritually recharged.

Beauty secret

Her main virtue or beauty asset is her faith in God. "He's my best friend; I talk to Him. He comforts me. I pray in almost all my idle moments."

That's the President's beauty secret that goes beyond the spiffy hairstyle and the sleek wardrobe. It gives her that youthful energy which is why she has no hang-ups about aging.

Asked if beauty came with age, Arroyo an-

"Ground Zero"—what was once the World Trade Center in New York.

"I was in Sta. Fe, New Mexico, (when the crisis struck the US)," he recalled. "I wanted to go to New York. I had someone sending over stuff for New York, but then I (told myself), 'There'd be a lot of policemen around.' And gas shot up to \$4 a gallon, so I said, 'Stuff it.'"

Priority

Getting home to Baguio suddenly became Galvin's new priority.

"I've been Santa for 17 years (in the city) and I'm not about to leave (this role behind)," he said. "But money is so hard. And even if I owned a restaurant here I'd get somebody else to manage it (because) you can't strap me to just one place. I'd go crazy."

He laughed heartily as he patted his beard.

"I've never even worn the suit in (Bontoc) because it's too far (from Baguio)," he said. "Christmas is too short and I couldn't do this there and come back here. It's just not possible."

But friends said Galvin had come back to a city that still regarded him as a minor folk icon.

"He's *Amerikano*," said his fellow American Raymond Bates, a distributor of publications. "But he's your Santa."

forcers had been increased to ensure strict compliance.

"We are calling on the PNP, the Army units around, not to fire their guns because this might mislead us. We might mistake the firing for the attack," Salapuddin said.

Should the directive be complied with, it would be the first time in many years that guns would be silent during holidays.

The practice of firing guns is prevalent in Sulu in keeping with a cultural belief that loud noise will keep misfortune and evil spirits away. But it has caused many deaths, especially among civilians.

Guns—which have taken the place of the *agong*, drums, pots and tin cans traditionally used in making noise—are also fired during lunar and solar eclipses, and even in times of strong winds, cyclones and earthquakes. *With reports from Anthony S. Allada and Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

swered with a laugh, "Younger people look better older than older people. I'm very realistic, but people say I look better now than when I was young. I didn't know how to fix myself then because it's never been important to me."

Why isn't age an issue for her while it is to other women?

"Because I'm running a country."

Childhood...

(From page A1)

that rescued 12 Filipinos from the clutches of abusive Japanese husbands and sustains hundreds others in a place where they could neither understand nor be understood.

She migrated to Japan in 1997 to live with her husband Riei, a volunteer worker for the Aetas of Pinatubo, whom she met and married here. She did not find it hard to adjust to a binacial marriage—until they transferred to Japan.

Culture shock

"I had a culture shock. Everything was so different," Nagase recalls. "Suddenly, after years of being independent, I suddenly felt incapacitated. I couldn't talk to anyone because I couldn't speak Japanese. I couldn't go anywhere because I couldn't read the signs. I was lonely."

Her initial attempt to look for fellow Filipinos—for there were as many as half a million in the country—failed. Later, she discovered that Filipinos, most of whom worked as entertainers, were asleep in the day, while those who are married to Japanese men, were confined to the house.

An active NGO worker here, Nagase had to keep herself busy. She volunteered as counselor for battered women who sought refuge at the Urawa Catholic Diocese, a short-train ride away from her home in Kawaguchi.

Here, on these train rides, she finally saw the familiar faces, some painted with heavy make-up, others with curt acknowledgments of the same race, and most others with the helpless and tired expression of wives.

Speaking in Tagalog, she would approach the women and ask for their contact numbers or addresses. Most of the women obliged as they, too, were obviously yearning for some Filipino company, Nagase says.

Her stint as counselor for the Urawa Catholic Diocese opened Nagase's eyes to the needs and sufferings of Filipino women in Japan, many of whom were abused by their customers or their own husbands, and whose marriages were failing because they could not communicate to their foreign partners.

Counseling not enough

"I appreciated what the church was doing, but deep inside I knew I had to do more," Nagase says. "Counseling is not enough, the Filipino women there needed to be empowered, to take care of themselves and their families, to make their situation work."

And so with only a vague solution in mind, Nagase started to call the women she had met on the train stations. They started to meet weekly, at first only three of them, in one of their houses when their Japanese husbands were out at work.

The informal group branded their clandestine meetings as *Talakayang Babae*, where they would share their life stories, discuss their problems and help each other go about their tasks as wives, workers or entertainers.

Nagase learned that the Filipino wives could actually be classified into three categories: mail-order brides; resident entertainers who married their customers; and former entertainers who came back to the Philippines but were fetched by their enamored suitors and taken back to Japan.

Mail-order brides

A Filipina mail-order bride was priced at Y3 million, with the entire package including dating and air fare, plus a dowry of Y100,000 for the bride's parents. Most of the girls come from the countryside, Nagase says. The Japanese men are farmers who strive to pay for their brides.

The Japanese Embassy here reported that it issues 5,000 spouse visas every year. A study by a Japan-based NGO, however, showed that 2,300 of these couple divorce annually, too, according to Nagase.

Illusions

The illusion of a better life fades quickly as the Filipino brides are made to work not only at home but also in the farm, serving their husbands and their families. Some are forced to embezzle from the family budget entrusted to them when relatives from the Philippines start phoning in emergencies.

"That's when the marriage starts to sour. The husbands lose their trust and see the Filipinos as mere gold-diggers," Nagase says. "Others start to abuse their wives sexually and physically because they are seen as properties."

Nagase's group, which grew and became known as the Kawaguchi Filipino Neighborhood (Kafine), reported these abuses to the city hall, which took the battered wives and provided them shelter and food allowance.

The Kafine also held cultural celebrations to showcase Filipino talent, and their clandestine gatherings became regular get-togethers that occasionally included the Japanese husbands, who are made to understand why Filipino women were driven into such marriages or indiscriminate jobs.

The Kafine also started a *paliwagan* so the women would have emergency money without bugging

I don't reflect on these things," she chuckled. "I have to reflect on how the domestic demand makes up for the reduction of export or how do I make sure that I can put money in agriculture and give the budget committee a ceiling below P145 million. In my previous jobs, I had more time to reflect on those lighter things, but the work of a president is quite heavy."



AGA NAGASE: A survivor of the Mindanao genocide during the martial law years, she grows up a devout Muslim looking after Christian Filipino women's needs in Japan. BOY BAGWIS

their spouses. Most of the women use their share on a vacation to the Philippines.

Nagase's husband would also clip news articles concerning the Philippines and migrant Filipinos, and translate these to Nipongo so his Japanese friends, some of whom are married to Filipinos, will understand the situation better.

"They have become sympathetic," Nagase observes. "They know now that Filipinos are not poor because we are lazy; we are poor because rich nations like Japan deplete our natural resources."

Nagase comes home and spends three months in Mindanao every year, just to see how her hometown has progressed. She looks upon the tragedies she has survived there as a child as the factors that molded her into the "*bagong bayani*" (new hero) that she is now.

Mass grave

The tragedy that haunts her even today was the massacre of 1,500 men in Malisburg, Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat in the early 1970s, which was not exposed in the Marcos-controlled media. Only 11, she had chanced upon the mass graveyard by the sea where her fellow Muslims were thrown.

Four years later, when the war expanded to their town and her family was relocated to Purok Islam, the biggest evacuation center in General Santos City, Nagase became overprotective of the women, trying hard to save as many Muslim families as possible.

Everyday, she would gather the children and mothers to teach them lessons on literacy and numeracy before she herself went to school at the Mindanao State University.

Her primary objective was for the women to recall the license plates of military vehicles that would seize their men or read the nameplates on the soldiers' uniforms, or just to understand Tagalog or English so they could make inquiries and fetch their men afterward.

The school was later formalized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development as a pre-school for residents of Purok Islam, while Nagase went on to Notre Dame University of Dadiangas for a course in AB Economics, which she never finished because of threats to her life.

For liquidation

From General Santos City, Nagase fled to South Cotabato and took on odd jobs there as helper, laundry-woman so she could get free board and lodging in a friend's house. She had been included in the target list for liquidation since her successful crusade to get her cousin's killer behind bars.

Landmark victory

It was Nagase who reported and filed a case against three military officials who shot her 18-year-old cousin to death inside the home of an influential Christian friend. The landmark victory encouraged the families of salvage victims to report the atrocities of the military and pursue cases against the perpetrators.

Later, Nagase joined friends from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) in medical missions and got involved in volunteer work for neglected Muslim tribes. She was the first Muslim worker in the UCCP who was instrumental in many Muslim-Christian dialogues.

"If not for the Catholics and Protestants who helped us Muslims in the evacuation centers, many would have died already," Nagase recalls. "I saw the impact of Christianity in our lives, and I am thankful for it."

Nagase said she would use her cash prize from the Bagong Bayani Award to start a newsletter for the Filipino communities in Kawaguchi, Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, where the *Talakayang Babae* is grounded.

Sin greets Muslims on Eid'l Fitr

(From page A1)

to the Most High and to be truly responsive to the practical demands of love and service in your daily lives."

In Davao City, Assistant Foreign Secretary Baharim Guinomia said Moro communities were delighted at President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of Dec. 17 as a special non-working holiday to mark Eid'l Fitr (or Hari-Raya Puasa).

Guinomia said that of the Philippine presidents, only Ms Macapagal found great importance in the Muslim celebration.

He said he and his fellow Muslims had expressed heartfelt thanks to the President for giving their religion due respect.

According to Guinomia, Hari-Raya is like the Christian celebration of Christmas.

He said Muslims would give thanks on this day and partake of food espe-

cially prepared for the occasion.

Path of dialogue

Cardinal Sin noted that recent events in the country and the world had highlighted "the need for unity and cooperation in the pursuit of peace, justice, brotherhood, dialogue and freedom."

"As believers in God, let us continue to walk along the path of dialogue," he said. "May the future ensure more open exchange in areas of mutual importance for our faithful. May our communities continue to extend warm relations and better understanding. May our faith in God assist us in our constant discernment of His will for our nation and for the world."

Sin also noted how "authentic religious convictions consistently promote human dignity and values."

He added: "The Church has relied on the friendship of peoples from other religions in her many efforts to build a more humane and compassionate world."

No firing of guns

In Jolo, Sulu, Col. Susulan Salapuddin, officer in charge of the 104th Army Brigade, yesterday said residents caught firing guns during Eid'l Fitr and the Christmas and New Year holidays would be arrested and detained.

He aired the warning over local radio amid the continuing threats of the followers of Nur Misuari, ex-governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to launch another attack on Jolo.

Misuari's followers in the Moro National Liberation Front mounted an attack last month in an effort to stop the holding of the ARMM elections. More than 100 people were killed.

Salapuddin said the warning also applied to members of the Armed Forces and Philippine National Police. He said that those found defying the warning would be dismissed from the service, and that the number of law en-

Fasting of rich for feasting of poor

(From page A1)

not give, nobody is so rich that he cannot receive," Coronel said, adding:

"The fasting of the rich should be translated to the feasting of the poor."

Coronel said that in these hard times, the people should settle for a simple "Noche Buena" or Christmas feast and relish more the presence of their loved ones and the gift of good health.

He urged the faithful to attend all the nine Masses leading to Christmas Day so their prayers would be answered.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ushered in the season by attending a Simbang Gabi at the Malacañang Garden last night.

The Simbang Gabi is normally cel-

ebrated at dawn, but Malacañang proceeded with the Mass after the President switched on the lights adorning a giant Christmas tree constructed above Mabini Hall.

After the Mass, the President gathered her Cabinet members to a dinner.

This is her first Christmas in Malacañang as President. She assumed office in January.

The lighting ceremony featured singers Jose Mari Chan and Cris Villonco, actor Dingdong Dantes, the Children's Choir and a children's musical presentation titled, "Ako, ang Bangkang Papel at si Ate Glo."

Earlier, Ms Macapagal presided over the annual gift giving of Project J.O.Y. held at the Malacañang grounds.

Sponsored by the Petron Foundation, Project J.O.Y. gathered 500 street children who were each given a bag of gifts.

Shopping

In her weekly TV program "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," aired yesterday morning, the President urged Filipinos to go shopping in the malls and flea markets during the holidays.

She said that for those who could afford to do so, going shopping especially for Philippine-made goods would be an act of patriotism.

"Every product that you buy will boost not only the stores' sales but also the country's economy," she said. "Buy anything, whether small or big. Show your confidence in the economy. Spread the Christmas spirit."

No plan to oust Danding

(From page A1)

Various groups are urging the Macapagal administration to boot out Cojuangco, a known Marcos crony and Estrada ally, from the top SMC post.

Even so, the President hailed the Supreme Court decision that gave the government the right to vote the sequestered shares representing 95.3 percent of United Coconut Planters Bank. UCPB controls 14 companies that hold a combined 27-percent interest in SMC.

Voting 10-5, the Supreme Court justices on Friday declared that the UCPB shares were "indisputably acquired with coco levy funds which are public in character." The late President Ferdinand Marcos imposed the levy on coconut products in the '70s and early '80s.

In its ruling, the high court gave the Sandiganbayan six months to settle with finality the 15-year-long ownership dispute over the UCPB shares as well as other corporate assets acquired through the multibillion-peso coco levy funds that Cojuangco and his allies had controlled.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered these assets in 1986 after Marcos was toppled.

In her TV program, Ms Macapagal said she would make sure that coconut farmers and the coconut industry benefit from the dividends paid out by SMC.

She also said that the planned acquisition of a 15-percent stake by Japan's Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. in SMC must not substantially dilute the gov-

ernment's share in the company.

Shortly before the Supreme Court issued its ruling, Cojuangco announced that Kirin would acquire 15 percent of San Miguel for about \$535 million, subject to a special stockholders' meeting in February.

But the SMC board that approved the Kirin deal included Estrada appointees who now faced expulsion and whose decision could be reversed by the new directors appointed by Ms Macapagal.

The President said that for the Kirin deal to push through, "they will have to explain to the (government) that this will not dilute the ownership" of the state-held shares.

She said that under the Kirin deal, the government would still have five seats on the board.

"The percentage of shares will be diluted slightly but the absolute number (of shares) will not go down," she stressed.

Ms Macapagal said that while the Kirin investment looked good, further explanations were needed "because it really happened very fast and there was no chance to understand it."

The President met with San Miguel Corp. chair Cojuangco and Kirin president Koichiro Arakami on Friday night, hours after the two announced their partnership.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal listened to Cojuangco and Arakami who presented their plans for SMC.

The President, he said, was "very happy" about the entry of Kirin, which is one of the world's top 10 brewer, into SMC.



COJUANGCO: A proposed partnership under scrutiny.

But she also told Cojuangco and Arakami to "explain" the deal to the PCGG, which had expressed reservations.

"It was more of a courtesy call. No issues were resolved. No issues were discussed," Tiglao said.

In a separate interview, PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said "we are willing to take a second look at Kirin and see if it will be good for the San Miguel franchise."

He emphasized that the PCGG would be looking at whether the deal was truly transparent, whether the government shares would be diluted and whether the deal with Kirin would transfer control of SMC to a bloc led Cojuangco.

"If any of these three are violated, then we will be forced to take legal remedies to undo this deed," Carranza said.

Carranza added that the PCGG hoped to remove the Estrada appointees from the board as soon as possible but that this needed an order from the Supreme Court.

There have been widespread accusations that Cojuangco regained control of SMC through the help of Estrada.

Apprehensions

There are also apprehensions by certain quarters that the Kirin deal would allow Cojuangco to retain control of SMC despite the Supreme Court ruling.

At present, Cojuangco enjoys the backing of 13 board directors. Only the two directors representing the state-run Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System opposed the Kirin deal.

According to analysts, the Kirin deal could leave the government with only seven directors—one from SSS, another from GSIS and the five that Ms Macapagal will appoint.

The Kirin deal will entitle the Japanese brewer to two board seats. Cojuangco, who has a 20-percent stake in SMC, will still be entitled to three seats.

Three management nominees are expected to represent the smaller investors who normally align themselves with whichever party controls the biggest bloc of shares.

Rosales

A proponent of the coconut levy as public funds in the House of Representatives urged the President to muster the political will to stop the sale of SMC shares to Kirin.

"The President has this wishy-washy position that in so far as her investment policy is concerned, (the Kirin deal) is a shot in the arm for the country. But that's not all there is to it," said partylist Rep. Etta Rosales of Akbayan.

Rosales said the President should not be blinded by Kirin's investment that, according to her, would be inimical to the interest of millions of farmers who depend on the coconut industry for their livelihood.

Rosales, one of the six authors of two bills seeking to declare the coconut levy as public funds, said the only

winner in the deal would be Cojuangco.

"No matter how big the Kirin investment is, this will bolster the influence of Danding Cojuangco," she said.

Rosales said the sale of the SMC shares to Kirin would perpetuate Danding's dominance on the firm and the coconut industry as well.

"And I cannot see how Danding sharing the interest of the farmers," she said.

Oreta

While Rosales welcomed the Supreme Court ruling, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the tribunal's declaration on the nature of the coconut levy fund might jeopardize, instead of promote, the welfare of 1.8 million coconut farmers.

"Given the government's disappointing record when it comes to funds intended for special purposes, I am afraid that the coconut levy fund may not benefit small farmers in the long run because being public in nature, it may soon find its way into the General Fund, and then possibly used by the Macapagal administration for other purposes," Oreta said.

Oreta's observation was also echoed by Sen. Edgardo Angara who said that the farmers may not be able to benefit directly from the funds should these be declared public in nature since the funds would end up in the government coffers, like the money earmarked for the military modernization program. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AP and AFP*

SC ruling hailed as a major victory for coconut farmers

By TJ BURGONIO

A FARMERS' group yesterday hailed the Supreme Court ruling declaring the coco levy funds as public funds, saying the decision left no other legal obstacle to the utilization of the funds by the small coconut farmers.

"This is a major victory for the small coconut farmers," Romeo Royandoyan, executive director of the Philippine Peasant Institute, said in a phone interview.

"There's nothing else to discuss but the utilization of funds since there are no more legal obstacles."

At the same time, Royandoyan urged all the farmers' organizations to

set aside their differences and unite for the fast recovery of the coco levy funds.

"Let's forge ahead and be united in a common platform on how to properly utilize and access the coco levy funds. After all, the funds are for the coco farmers," he said.

A few weeks ago, the farmers' groups have been divided on whether to strike a compromise deal with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco on the disputed San Miguel Corp. shares.

With the favorable SC ruling on the sequestered shares of the United Coconut Planters' Bank, Royandoyan said the government should now shift its focus to using the funds to alleviate the

plight of the copra farmers.

The government could start by approving a proposal on the establishment of the Copra Social Investment Fund (CSIF) for the small coconut farmers, he said.

The CSIF is intended to provide capital for the farmers so they could market and trade copra. Its seed capital would be sourced from the dividends in the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank shares.

"This would result in an increase in the income of copra farmers because they would be able to directly sell copra," said Royandoyan, who submitted the proposal in last week's Economic Summit.

Should the government approve the proposal, it must provide the CSIF an initial capital of at least P200 million. The amount would be released to farmers in 40 of the 65 coconut provinces, he said.

Royandoyan also proposed that the government create a "transitional body" to handle the still unresolved issues on the coco levy funds.

"There has to be a body to handle all these things because the issue involves 1 million farmers. There must be a systematic approach to the recovery of the coco levy funds," he said.

The body, he said, should be composed of the Multi-sectoral Task Force on the Coco Levy representing the farm-

ers, and the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) representing the government.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to recover foreign assets that were acquired by Cojuangco through the coconut levy funds.

Citing the book "Some Are Smarter Than Others," Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz said Cojuangco and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile set up the United Coconut Mills (Unicom) to acquire foreign assets using coconut levy funds.

Among these were two refineries in Marseilles, France—the Nouvelles

Huilleries Et Refineries Unipol and Societe Anonyme de Produit which, he said, were acquired in 1980 for \$15 million.

Corpuz said Unicom acquired the two refineries to allow Cojuangco and Enrile to evade tariffs on edible coconut oil imports imposed by Western Europe.

Aside from the refineries, Unicom also invested portion of the coconut levy funds in its subsidiaries such as the Pan Pacific Commodities, Crown Oil Corp., Granexport and Legaspi Oil International Ltd.

"President Arroyo should order the PCGG to repossess properties and assets abroad that were funded by the coconut farmers' money," Corpuz said in a statement.

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 NBA Jam at 12:30 p.m. on NBN 4
 US NCAA—Tennessee vs Memphis at 2 p.m., Iowa vs Missouri tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PSC starts cycling probe

CHAIR Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission has started investigating the alleged anomalous P2.6 million worth of cycling equipment under the care of Philippine Amateur Cycling Association president Ponciano Regalado.

PBA GOVERNORS CUP

Sta. Lucia seeks 1st title in 10 years

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel

Game 1—Sta. Lucia d. SMB, 86-80
 Game 2—SMB d. Sta. Lucia, 86-78
 Game 3—Sta. Lucia d. SMB, 83-74
 Game 4—SMB d. Sta. Lucia, 106-73
 Game 5—Sta. Lucia d. SMB, 85-71

BY JUNE NAVARRO

AMONG the 10 teams in the PBA, only Sta. Lucia Realty has not yet seen the glimmer of a championship trophy.

The Realtors might change their fate tonight when they shoot for a first-ever title in over nine years against defending champion San Miguel Beer in the PBA Governors Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Realtors, anchored on the exploits of Damien Owens, Paolo Mendoza and Dennis Espino, subdued the Beermen, 85-71, Friday night to gain a 3-2 advantage and move a win closer from wrapping up their best-of-seven title series.

"We're up 3-2 now and we're not gonna get a chance better than this so we have no other choice but to go for it in Game 6," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black, who is gunning for his 10th title in more than 15 years of coaching.

The chief architect of San Miguel's 1989 Grand Slam, Black won his last championship in 1994 when the Beermen captured the All-Filipino Cup, enabling the core of the team to represent the country in the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games.

Should the Realtors prove successful tonight, Black will automatically move alongside Alaska's Tim Cone with the second most number of titles behind the legendary Baby Dalupan's 15.

Black is aiming to become the fifth head coach to win championships with different teams after Dalupan, Tommy Manotoc, Ed Ocampo and Yeng Guiao.

Finishing off the Beermen will also reward majority of the Realtors their first championship ring after failing to slip past the same squad in the Commissioner's Cup Finals last year.

Except for Marlou Aquino and Michael Orquillas,

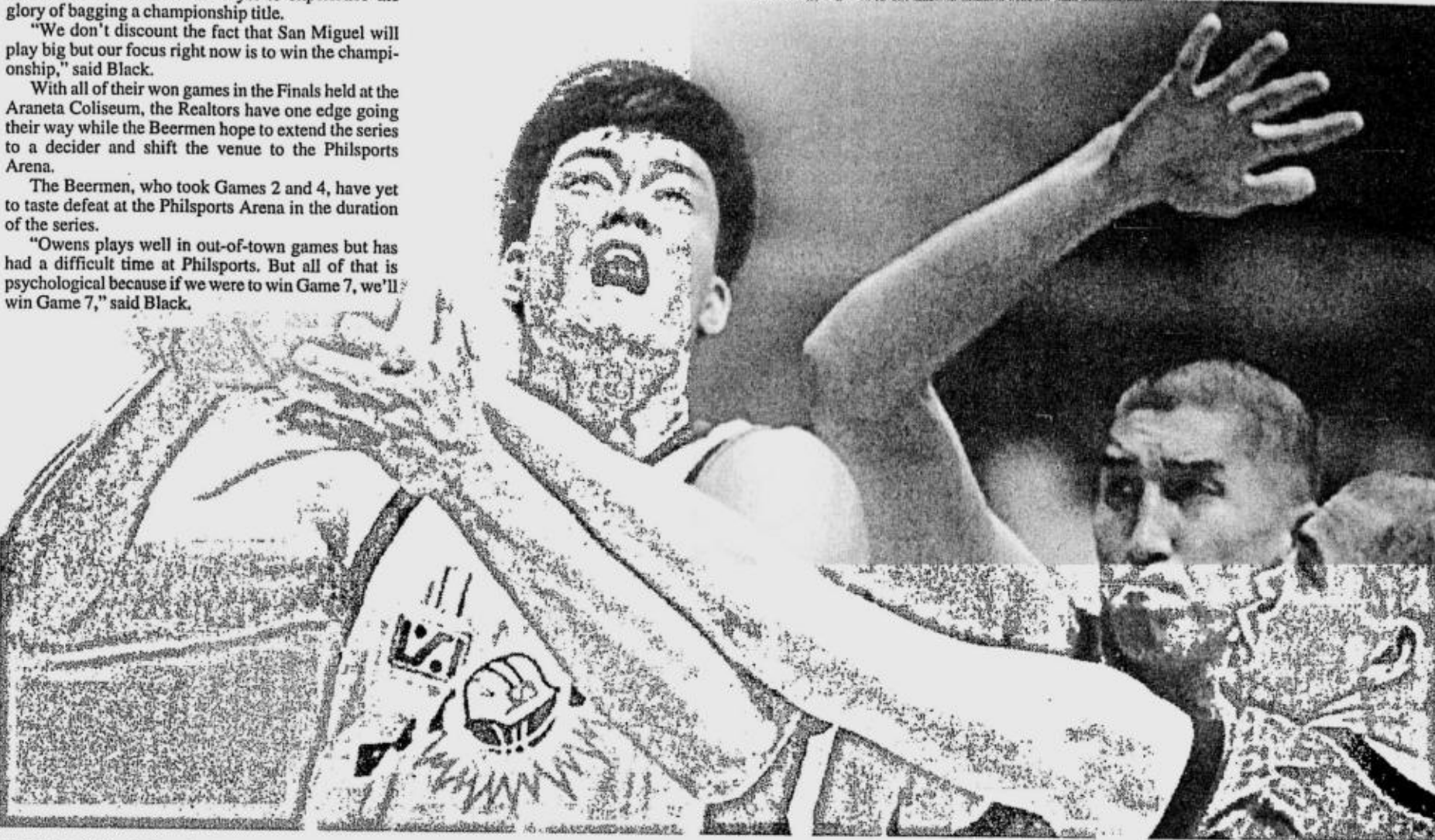
the rest of the Realtors have yet to experience the glory of bagging a championship title.

"We don't discount the fact that San Miguel will play big but our focus right now is to win the championship," said Black.

With all of their won games in the Finals held at the Araneta Coliseum, the Realtors have one edge going their way while the Beermen hope to extend the series to a decider and shift the venue to the Philsports Arena.

The Beermen, who took Games 2 and 4, have yet to taste defeat at the Philsports Arena in the duration of the series.

"Owens plays well in out-of-town games but has had a difficult time at Philsports. But all of that is psychological because if we were to win Game 7, we'll win Game 7," said Black.



ESPINO (left) of Sta. Lucia Realty cries for help amid a double-team defense by Nic Belasco (middle) and Danny Seigle of San Miguel Beer on Wednesday in Game 5 of their PBA Playoffs. Sta. Lucia won, 85-71, and moved within a game of clinching its first PBA title in nearly 10 years.

ROMY HOMILADA

Batangas guns for MBA sweep vs Negros

GAME TODAY (USLS Gym, Bacolod City)
5 p.m.—Negros vs LBC Batangas

BY ROY LUARCA

THE LBC Batangas Blades want a sweep, but the Negros Slashers are out to foil that when they clash in Game 4 of the MBA National Finals at 5 p.m. today at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

Getting the lift from their Batangueño fans, the Blades thwarted the Slashers in Game 1, 88-85, in Lipa City and then banked on their key men's familiarity with the San Andres Gym to repeat in Game 2, 85-74, and move within a win of capturing the title.

The Slashers are not expected to just roll and die however, since the next two games are slated at the USLS Gym where they enjoy tremendous crowd support.

LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela knows that the Slashers are hard to beat in Bacolod and he welcomes the challenge.

"Paghahandaan namin ito. We'll try to silence the crowd in Bacolod," Racela said after their Game Two victory. "But I expect the Slashers to play tough on defense and be more physical."

In the first two games, the Blades have turned out to be aggressor. They pulled away early and though they relaxed in the fourth quarter they proved that they have enough power left to beat the Slashers.

Jacobs: Equal player distribution

COACH Ron Jacobs yesterday said he would try to get at least one player each from the 10 PBA teams for the national training squad. But if you add them up it's already 20 and that is what I'm gonna deal with so that teams would be equal," said Jacobs.

Through a resolution passed more than two weeks

back, the Board limited the exodus of players to the national team to only 18, the final composition of which Jacobs has not yet decided upon.

The Board of Governors will convene on Tuesday with the transfer of the Pop Cola franchise from the RFM Group of Companies to San Miguel Corporation on top of the agenda.

The transfer of Tanduay's PBA franchise to FedEx also serves as one of the main dishes in the meeting.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said that Chair Ignatius Yenko told him to include the Tanduay-FedEx franchise sale in the menu.

ICTSI cagers get back at Pioneer

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc.-Archers got back at Ateneo-Pioneer, 91-73, and strengthened its frontrunning position last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Swingman Alvin Castro led four other teammates, scoring in double figures as the Archers averaged their 66-49 setback to the Insurers in the first round.

ICTSI improved to 7-2, while Ateneo-Pioneer dropped to 4-6 in the company of Kutitap Toothpaste, which earlier bowed to Montaña Jewels, 79-76.

Playing with precision, the Archers posted double-digit advantages, the biggest at 88-69 when Castro

completed a three-point-play three minutes remaining in the game.

BJ Manalo, Mike Cortez, Dominic Uy and Willie Wilson also dashed Ateneo-Pioneer's hopes with their fiery plays.

Dennis U. Erosa

ICTSI-ARCHERS 91—Castro 18, Yap 15, Manalo 15, Wilson 13, Uy 11, Cortez 6, Sta. Maria 4, Cuan 2, Franco 0, Omolon 0.

ATENEOPIONEER 73—Avenido 24, Villanueva 13, Membere 11, Ferrer 7, Bugla 6, Noble 4, Dela Rosa 4, Alvarez 4, Fonacier 0, Slison 0.

Quarters: 24-22, 50-41, 69-53, 91-73.

SPORTSWATCH

Wizards pocket 5th straight victory

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Richard Hamilton, who has been outscoring Michael Jordan during the Washington's winning streak, scored 27 of his season-high 34 points before halftime as the Wizards won their fifth straight, beating the New York Knicks, 96-80. Jordan recovered from a 1-for-5 start to score eight of his 19 points in the third quarter. Together, Hamilton and Jordan are averaging a combined 46.2 points during the winning streak, with Hamilton at 26.4 points and Jordan at 19.8. **COMPLETE RESULTS:** Milwaukee 96, Philadelphia 80; Boston 107, Chicago 101; New Jersey 95, Miami 86; Minnesota 114, Sacramento 94; San Antonio 105, Phoenix 93; Utah 93, Portland 85; LA Lakers 110, LA Clippers 80. **AFP**

Borromeo leads Southwoods Cup

JIMMY Borromeo carded a net 73 yesterday to take the lead in class A of the two-day 2001 Southwoods Golf and Country Club Chairman's Cup at the Masters and Legends courses here. A seven handicapper, Borromeo is one stroke ahead of four handicapper Dr. Larry Tojino, and five shots ahead of Fred Carandang, who shot a net 79. Senator Tito Sotto, former Press Secretary Mike Toledo, Diamond Motors president George Blaylock, College Assurance Plan president Enrique Sobrepeña and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Inc. vice president for marketing Mel Dizon bannered the record field of 280 members, sponsors and guests who participated in the eighth edition of the annual event held in honor of Manila Southwoods chair Robert John Lamb Sobrepeña. Sotto led the guest division with a net 71.

Woods trails Singh by a shot

THOUSAND OAKS, California—Vijay Singh got hot in the middle of his round and birdied five straight holes on his way to a 6-under 66 at the Williams World Challenge, giving him a one-stroke lead over tournament host Tiger Woods at Sherwood Country Club. Singh, one of four players in the 18-man field who didn't win on his home turf this year, was at 134 and had only one complaint. "I didn't like the weather," he said Friday. **AP**

Golf Power to feature PTAA tilt

GOLF Power today features the highlights of the 3rd PTAA Golf Tournament held on Monday at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club and the PGDA's regular monthly junior golf tournament at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Also featured on the show are the regular dose of golf tips, trivia, definition of golf terms and rules. Golf Power, now on its sixth year, is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m., on IBC-13. It is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada and produced by Joe Cantada Sports. Cebu Pacific and Outback Steakhouse sponsor this week's golf program.

Bacolod to host Tour 2002

BACOLOD City's Centercourt Tennis Club headed by Lina Canlas will host the kick-off leg of the Tennis Tour 2002 in April. The "Tennis Tour 2002," a three conference, 12-leg circuit around key cities in the country, is organized by the Men's Professional Tennis Council of the Philippines led by Adelo Abadia. After Bacolod, the Circuit will go to Iloilo, Cebu and Ormoc.

The Mindanao swing will start in General Santos and onwards to Davao, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro while the Luzon conference will be held in Laoag, Angeles, Camanava and Legaspi.

Now or never

WHY the sudden big game once more from Sta. Lucia Realty in Game 5? Was San Miguel Beer just lucky in Game 4?

Bret Harte said: "The only sure thing about luck is that it will change."

San Miguel's luck changed from good to bad in Game 5?

Or did Sta. Lucia Realty just decide to again recall its much superior strength? Isn't it that if you are good, you are lucky? Or, as Robert Jaworski loves to say it, we create luck?

Whatever, tonight should be the night for Sta. Lucia Realty. Long the league's most visible decoration, Sta. Lucia must now end that unsavory tag. Tonight's the night. A defeat could complicate matters for the Realtors; their battle cry before they enter the hard court should be: "It's now or never."

Almost always, if there's a Game 7, neither team has the edge.

A guy shot 100 at Intramuros, a par-64, on Wednesday after he made 81 at The Orchard, a par-72, on Tuesday. On Friday, he did 85, again at The Orchard.

Intramuros is an extremely difficult golf course. You don't count your strokes there. You count the number of balls you hit into the water.

Why don't we redesign Intramuros to make it golfer friendly, if not tourist friendly? It's right beside Manila Hotel, right?

Intramuros is too hazard-laden it removes the fun out of the game.

Today's start of the "Misa de Gallo" coincides with the birthday of my departed father, Tata Tonyong to his constituents in Pidigan, Abra, and to my Pareng Gob Manny Piñol of North Cotabato. May peace reign in your heart from hereon.

Holyfield-Ruiz on

MASHANTUCKET, Connecticut—Evander Holyfield wants to be whole again.

"If you're not undisputed champion, you're just a fraction of a champion," said Holyfield, who will try to win at least a piece of boxing's biggest prize for the fifth time when he challenges John Ruiz for the WBA heavyweight title.

So Holyfield sees today's fight at Foxwoods Resort Casino as only a step back to the position he held until Riddick Bowe made him a former undisputed champion in 1992.

Holyfield had become undisputed champ by knocking out James "Buster" Douglas in the third round in 1990.

The last time Holyfield faced Ruiz, he lost the WBA title on a decision March 3. He had won the vacant title by outpointing Ruiz on Aug. 12, 2000.

Should Holyfield win, he wants to take on the winner of the fight between WBC-IBF champion Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson, expected to be held in April.

If Lewis wins, it's doubtful he'd want a third fight against Holyfield. In two fights for the undisputed title, the two men fought a draw and Lewis won a decision Nov. 13, 1999. Lewis was stripped of the WBA title for not giving Holyfield a third fight.



HOLYFIELD

Hermie plays Santa; Wind Blown favored

OVERWHELMING.

That's exactly how racing fans responded to Hermie Esguerra's recent pa-contest involving 12 of his gallopers.

Today, Presidential Gold Cup day, Hermie is playing Santa and will hand the cash prizes to the top winners, culled from more than 10,000 entries all over Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Judges really had a hard time sorting out the best from among the senders but eventually picked the "Lucky 3" who will receive P15,000 each.

They are Ma. Corazon Henson of Cainta, Rizal; Ramon Talamayan of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and Herminia Lawas of Pasay City.

Henson's entry was entitled "Giliw Kong Bilmoko," while Talamayan and Lawas titled theirs "Panatang Makabayo" and "Pagmamahal ng Isang Kaserista," respectively.

Not only that, five second placers are also pocketing P10,000 each today, while 10 third placers are receiving P5,000 each.

Hermie and his staff are posting the winning compositions inside the Santa Ana Park premises today for all racing fans to see.

And to make everybody happy, Hermie said losing entries would be included in a raffle during the day.

This should be very exciting because if plans push through, raffle winners can take home specially-designed Wind Blown wall clocks.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva



"Maraming maraming salamat po sa lahat ng sumali. Baka po next year meron uli," said Hermie, who is also sending each and every participant his personal "thank you" cards.

By the way, Hermie's pambato, Wind Blown, is the odds-on pick to make a repeat in the 29th running of the PGC this afternoon and bag the P1.5 million prize for Hermie.

If he wins the P2.375-million contest (2,050 meters), Wind Blown would mirror the feats of Fair and Square (1981-82), Sun Dancer (1989-90) and Bulldozer (1996-97) as back-to-back champs in the event.

More importantly, the victory could perhaps convince everyone that Wind Blown is 2001's undisputed Horse of the Year.

Chief backer Pagcor, under chairman Ephraim Genuino, is lining up 11 Gold Cup races (each with guaranteed prizes of P150,000 to

P200,000) today.

Pagcor is of course being backed by the Philracom in staging the Sunday big event.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race—1. Men of Honor 2. House Conquest
 3. Real Dancer
 Race 2—1. Michael's Way 2. Top Dancer 3. Star Sapphire
 Race 3—1. Empowered 2. Corporate Law
 3. Romario 4. Triple Joy 5. Golden Child
 Race 4—1. Spinning Bullet 2. Hollywood Park
 3. Runaway Bride 4. Very Sharp
 Race 5—1. Sea Wolf 2. Top Mark 3. Jinky
 Race 6—1. Wind Blown 2. Gold Edition 3. Super Sharp 4. Materiales Fuertes 5. Charlemagne
 Race 7—1. Clear Sky 2. Smart Kevin 3. Timeless Beauty 4. Stock Rising 5. Gun Express
 Race 8—1. Playing With Fire 2. Radiance 3. Perfect Storm/Irish Star 4. Allusion 5. Absolute Power
 Race 9—1. Staunch Ally 2. Lyonnais
 Race 10—1. Gifted Guest 2. Sparkling Sky
 3. Alm and Fire 4. Gemstone 5. Power Pack
 Race 11—1. Gold Pyramid 2. Exotic Shades
 3. Dynamite Miss 4. Chief Navigator 5. Mrs. Blg
 Race 12—1. Labuyo 2. Dressed to Impress 3. Golden Dave 4. Society's Pleasure 5. Il Amorosa
 Race 13—1. Front Page 2. Arabica 3. Thunder Speed 4. Play By Play/Optician 5. Roulette Queen 6. Touch of Jax

Poveda netter wins

KATRINA Pamintuan of Poveda and Jeanette Bumgarner registering contrasting wins yesterday to arrange a girls' 18-under quarterfinal showdown in the fourth Armando Manzano age-group tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Pamintuan posted a 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory over Kristel Samala, while Bumgarner routed Marietta Erorita, 6-0, 6-0.

In other matches, Karen Reyes beat Anna Martinez, 6-4, 6-1, to advance against No. 1 Julie Ann Cadiente; Alyssa Labay conquered Catherine Flores, 6-3, 6-0 to meet third seed Ivy de Castro and Angelica Ngo beat Marja Bernardo, 7-5, 6-4, to collide with No. 2 Berry Sepulveda.

Sepulveda.

In the boys' 18-under class, Jandrick de Castro stamped his class over James Soldevillo, 6-1, 6-0, to forge a second-round duel with top seed Ian de Guzman at 11 a.m. today.

In other matches, Mauric Lao defeated Jomar Haspela, 6-0, 6-1, to slug it out with No. 3 Christian Cuarto while Laurence Magaway outplayed Boris John Chaves, 6-3, 6-2, to face No. 7 Dino Ferrari. Other winners were William Murrell and Miguel Narvaez.

In the boys' 14-under category, Johnwill Baldonado defeated Gerardo Narvaez, 6-4, 6-4, and James Murrell beat Gian Paulo Aguila, 6-2, 6-3.

Scooter tilt on

THE COUNTRY'S top scooter riders return to the starting grid for the last time this year in the seventh and final leg of the 2001 Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite today.

Jaime Barcial tries to wrap up the overall championship in the centerpiece expert open category against a small but tough field that included defending champion Jolet Jao, Mark Chua and Randy Ortiz.

Barcial, who has won four of the previous six legs, is way ahead in the overall standings over Jao in this prestigious seven-part series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance.

Also favored to snatch the title in their respective categories are Barcial's younger brother Mark Anthony Barcial, Gilbert Maningas and newcomer R.B. Santos.

Barcial is also ahead in the 70cc category over Sonny Villarama, John Dino Cahanding, Dennis Chua and Kenneth Garcia, while Maningas is well ahead in the 90cc class over Barcial, Ortiz and Sonny Villarama.

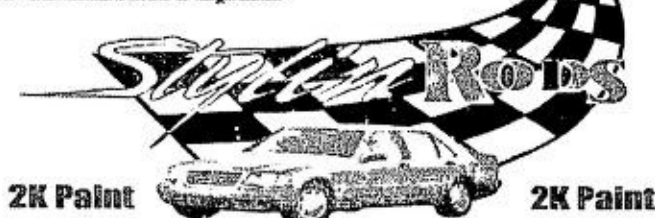


'WONDER BOY'

Kenneth "Wonder Boy" San Andres of Caltex-KTM Racing Team made the country proud anew by finishing second in Little Stars category in the recent 2001 FIM-Asia Supercross Championships in Bangkok. San Andres (inset) is also supported by Triumph Marketing, Viajeros, Mayya Motorcycle Shop, JBS, Dan's Bikeshop and Access Plus.

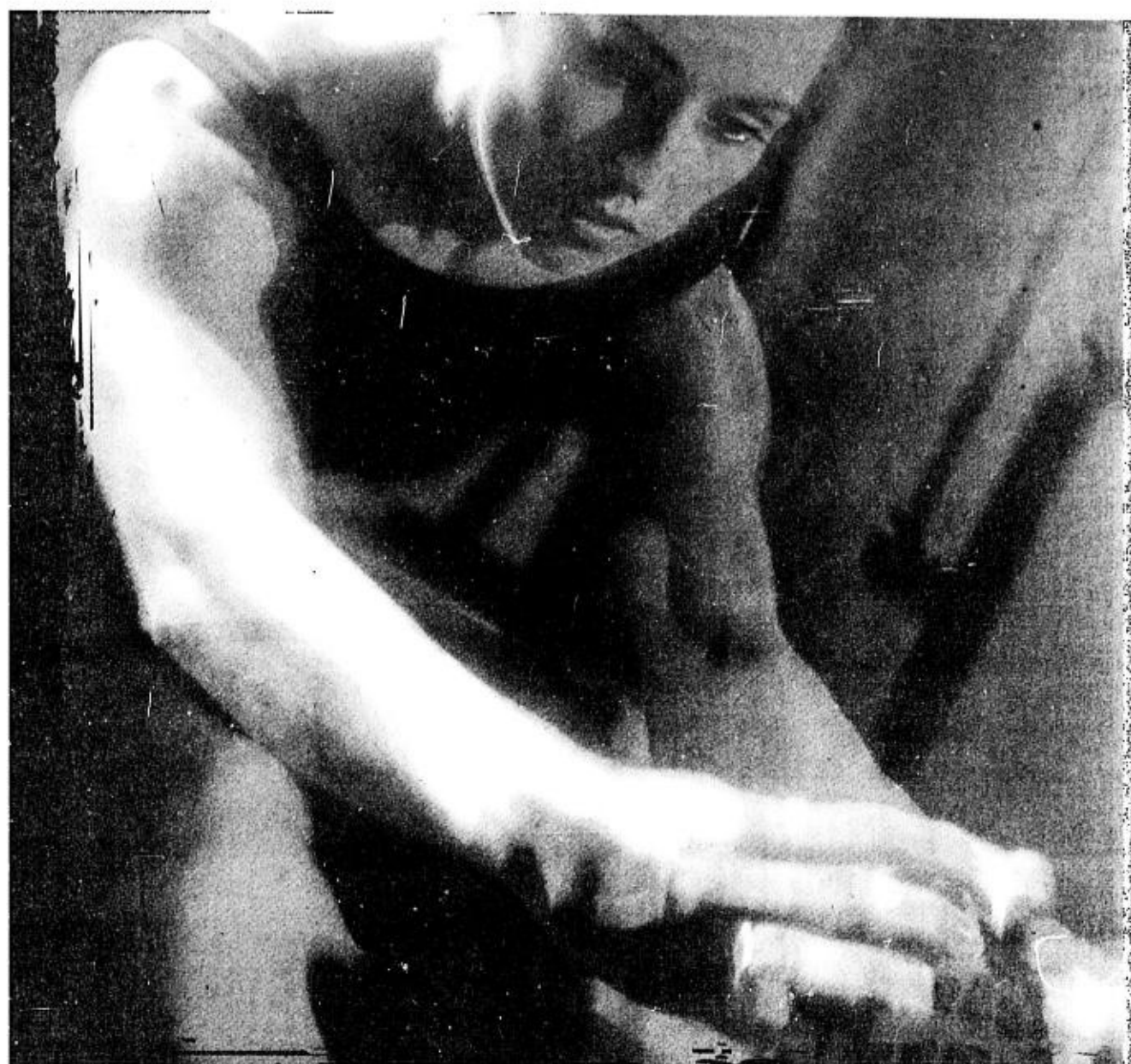
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Nervous' Nida aide flunks NBI lie test

BY JEROME ANING

NIDA Blanca's long-time aide Elena dela Paz has flunked the second polygraph test administered to her by the National Bureau of Investigation, probers said yesterday.

Dela Paz also appeared to be "cracking" under intensive questioning, a source in the NBI told the INQUIRER.

"She has shown signs that she is ready to cooperate with the agents investigating the case," the same source added.

Blanca's husband Rod Strunk will undergo his first lie-detector test on Wednesday.

He was earlier interrogated in the presence of his lawyers last Tuesday.

Another Blanca confidante, Candelaria Tantoco, may be summoned by the NBI also to undergo a lie-detector test to back up statements she had given to the police.

The source said Dela Paz looked "nervous" when she was asked about her relationship with Red Cruz, a reporter of dzAR Angel Radio, who happens to be her grandson.

"She was pale and speechless," said the source who is familiar with the investigation. "At first, she denied having a reporter for a relative, but later admitted it."

NERVOUS NIDA/A22



DE LA PAZ

Instant millionaire had never won a bingo game

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

DECEMBER 4 started out like any other day for the 27-year-old Percival Medroso. He timed in early and went about his work as a stockman for a computer services firm.

He was getting ready for his morning coffee break when he saw a small note taped to his computer asking him to return the call of a certain Joy.

He did not think much about it and took a break first. He later sat down and called Joy back.

"When I got to talk to her, she told me to first sit down and be calm.

Joy even asked me to get a glass of water. When I asked her why, she said in a very serious tone, "Percival, you have just won a million pesos!" he told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

He refused to take Joy seriously and instead told her to stop making jokes.

But she sounded serious, he said, and she assured him that she was telling the truth.

When it slowly dawned on him that Joy was indeed telling the truth, he broke out in a cold sweat.

"I excused myself because I was no longer coherent. When I put down the phone I screamed! When my office mate asked me what was the matter, I told him I won! I won a million pesos! Then he screamed with me," Percival said.

He next collected himself. He took a deep breath and again Joy, again. She told him where and how he could get his money, the grand prize of Hewlett-Packard's "Print Your Way to A Million" raffle promotion that ended last Nov. 23.

Hewlett Packard's promotion was aimed at promoting the use of original HP print cartridges for printers instead of low-quality imitations to ensure top printing quality.

When Percival next broke the great news to his boss, the executive did not tarry and told him to leave and claim his prize.

Surprise

Percival ran out to head for home. He wanted to surprise his mother, Merlinda Tupaz, who was recovering from an expensive operation on her myoma.

Percival went to her bedside and whispered in her ear, "Mama, I just won a million pesos."

"She did not believe me at first," Percival said. "She even hit my hand and told me stop making jokes. But I told her it was true. I really won. She then smiled and my siblings, who were eating at that time, jumped with joy. I told one of my brothers to dress up and go with me to HP."

They went to the HP office and claimed the check for a million pesos.

Percival then went to a nearby church, which unfortunately was closed. Just the same, he stayed, hid behind one of the church posts and said a fervent prayer, thanking the Lord for hearing his prayers.

INSTANT MILLIONAIRE/A22

She leads gang of bus robbers

SO who says women cannot demand equal opportunity in the workplace?

Police reported yesterday that a woman led a holdup gang in robbing passengers of an air-conditioned bus in Pasay City Friday night.

The suspects fled with P50,000 in stolen cash and jewelry, according to the Pasay City Police Criminal Investigation Division.

Police said the four suspects boarded the Prince air con bus (PYA-380) driven by Ricardo Vicente, 29, at Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) in Makati City about 10 p.m.

Minutes later, the woman leader of the gang pulled out a pistol and announced the robbery. Her cohorts then proceeded to rob the victims at knifepoint.

The woman then ordered the bus driver to proceed to Edsa corner Roxas Boulevard. Once there, the gang jumped out of the bus with their loot and fled.

At the police station, the passengers described the woman to be about 20 to 30 years old, 5 feet tall, with short hair. They added that she looked like she was under the influence of illegal drugs. *Acuin Papa*



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PLDT Touch Cards are available in all PLDT Business Offices, LBC stations, SM Malls, 7-11 outlets, I-mart and other authorized dealers nationwide

Teener dead minutes after being fetched by his own friends

BY JEROME ANING

Manila Water currently distributes water in the east zone, which include Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-jala, Morong, Pililia, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, Taytay, and parts of Marikina, Taguig, Pasig, Pateros and Quezon City.

Mandarar was in the tricycle terminal on Jacinto Street when the suspects stopped beside his tricycle and opened fire on him. The suspects then fled toward Radial Road 10.

Dagupan judge serious after fight with robbers

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

While Castillo was changing the van's tire, two unidentified men approached them and took the judge's son while announcing the heist. Seeing his son in danger, Castillo took a steel pipe and tried to beat the robbers but one of them managed to take out a knife and stabbed the judge in different parts of his body. The two robbers fled the scene shortly

Asked what he would put in his computer shop, he answers: "HP products of course!"

If it was true that a large sum of money was scheduled to change hands the night Blanca was killed, the person should have been at the site or, if not, should have known about the people whom the actress was supposed to meet.

John could have said it out louder, but it is not any clearer. He leaves no unanswered questions raised by the Jewish envoys. Neither is he the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet. He is the one who brings the news, who prepares the way for the Lord. His Baptism is only with water. Some one will come after him who will baptize in the Spirit. It is amazing how John knows where to situate himself. No more, no less. He is not the light but a witness to that light. Thus he reminds us that we don't shine with our own light, but everything we have, we got it for free. As Christians, therefore, it is our duty to give testimony to that light, that people may not look at ourselves but at the one who is the Light.

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will baptize in the Spirit. It is amazing how John knows where to situate himself. No more, no less. He is not the light but a witness to that light. Thus he reminds us that we don't shine with our own light, but everything we have, we got it for free. As Christians, therefore, it is our duty to give testimony to that light, that people may not look at ourselves but at the one who is the Light.

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XAX Music, the newest player in the recording industry, introduces the invigorating pull of the electronic elements house and trance music by launching "Midnight Chill."

The album is composed of six dance remixes and reinvented versions of the Christmas classics "Oh! Holy Night" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

The dominant sounds on "Midnight Chill" are danceable and thriving on the newfangled sounds of top programmers TriS and Dn. There are pronounced organic sounds in every song, with ethereal melodies blending with the cool voices of Xax Music artists Glaiza and Sari.

The album begins on a trance-oriented arrangement of Glaiza's carrier single from her debut maxi-single, "Magbalik Ka."

Also featured is the remixed version of Sari's "Flowin'," now enjoying heavy rotation in the airwaves.

"Midnight Chill" is collectively an eclectic and at times, vibrant blend of trance, break beats and good old dance melodies to keep one grooving to the beat.

Aside from the featured songs, something to look forward to are the programmers and arrangers involved in the production of the creative concept album.

"Midnight Chill" is now available on CDs in major record bars, with free postcards of Sari and Glaiza.

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Alice anxious about her show biz comeback

YEAR 2001 has been a long one for actress Alice Dixon, who left last January for Canada, where she migrated with her husband, Ronnie Miranda.

Alice simply played housewife to Ronnie in Vancouver the whole year. But she didn't think twice about giving up her thriving show biz career for a peaceful married life, away from the limelight and the intrigues.

"When my husband decided to live in Canada, I went with him," Alice says. "It was not a hard decision to make if you really want a quiet family life."

Marriage has taught Alice more valuable lessons.

"I think I learned to be calm," she says. "I'm more responsible now because I'm not just taking care of myself. There's my husband, too. I also learned that you need good communication skills when you're married."

These lessons learned, Alice claims, have added new dimension to her acting. While in Canada, she took up acting lessons with Kirstin Clarkson and also tried her luck in several auditions, where she read for particular roles.

Alice auditioned for an Asian guest role as angel of death in the Canadian TV show, "Mysterious Ways."

"I never really stopped acting," Alice says. "I only changed locations. In Canada, it's very different. Being a looker will not easily land you a role. Although your credentials will help, you have to prove yourself and audition for the part."

"It's also frustrating to get rejected for roles you like. I'd usually get a callback, but more often than not, I would not get the role because most of the theater, TV and film projects require you to be part of the Union of British Columbia Performers, even if you're just playing a minor role. I guess I have to build a new body of work, so I can be part of the union."

Alice confesses the first trimester of her stay in Vancouver was very depressing.

"The first two months, I suffered from winter depression syndrome," she reveals. "It was always raining and snowing and there was no sun, so I didn't get any Vitamin D, which is supposed to be an anti-depressant."

"I went to the library and started to read up on what I was going through and that was where I learned it was the winter depression syndrome. But when spring came, I felt better. I had a brighter disposition and I was happy."

But Alice says she enjoys her peaceful, non-celebrity life in Vancouver.

"I went through a period of adjustment but it wasn't that bad."

Although she initially wanted to have kids early in her marriage, Alice feels she and Ronnie are not yet ready to have children.

"I realized there's a lot of responsibility that goes with having children, especially if you're in another country," Alice explains. "Ronnie and I want to be really ready before we have kids."

In the home front, Alice's presence was missed. Who can forget her in the first place?

She uttered the classic "I can feel it" line in the Palmolive shampoo TV ad. She is also best remembered for her popular Faye character in the fantasy sitcom, "Okay Ka, Fairy Ko."

So when Alice was offered to do a TV series, through her talent manager Arnold Vegafria, she didn't pass up the chance. When she arrived late last month, Alice was surprised she even had film offers from Viva, FLT, Maverick, MMG

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



and Star Cinema.

Alice is fortunate enough to enjoy the support of her hubby in her show biz comeback. No, it's not true that they are now estranged, which was reportedly the reason she went back to the country. In fact, Alice says Ronnie is joining her in Manila for the holidays.

"He's (Ronnie) not the kind of person who would stop me from doing what I want," Alice says. "He's very supportive and very sincere. He's so sweet. He allows me to do what I want."

Ronnie is a webmaster who designs websites of celebrities such as Sharon Cuneta, Pops

Fernandez and Zsa Zsa Padilla. He has his own outfit called Storm Visualization. (Check it out www.stormviz.com)

Alice met Ronnie through a colleague in 1998. But she swears she was not instantly attracted to him.

"He doesn't look like a macho actor," she says. "He was even skinny. It was only when I got to talk to him that I realized he's intelligent and sensitive."

Even if she's now back in Manila, Alice is anxious about her comeback.

"I don't know if my comeback will be accepted or what kind of projects I will get this time," she says. "I can film for a few months, then probably go back to Vancouver to be with Ronnie."

"I miss working. Whether I'm a struggling actress in Canada or a famous actress in Manila, I will still act."

Documentary

ALICE proudly announces that her cousin, Camilla Jiggers, who is based in the States, has

ALICE/A25



DIXSON. Enjoys her peaceful, non-celebrity life in Vancouver, away from the limelight and show biz intrigues.

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Of little angels and Yule songs

"PAMASKO ng Bayan" CD is a compilation of Christmas recordings that will put the children's Christmas spirits on high. The collection of tunes for kids of all ages is released by Dunkin' Donuts.

The CD features the Playshop Kids who sing seven classic carols and two original compositions — "Jingle Bells," "Little Drummer Boy," "Deck the Halls," "It's Christmas Time Again," "The First Noel," "12 Days of Christmas," "Ngayong Pasko," "Pasko na Naman" and the Dunkin' Donuts Christmas jingle.

The compilation also includes three minus one songs.

The CD comes free with every purchase of a dozen Dunkin' Donuts. Promo is available at all participating outlets nationwide until Dec. 25.

PLAYSHOP Kids

AS the current film year is about to end, lovers of good movies are starting to list the movies which they felt could figure in the awards derbies that will be held in the next few months. And the frontrunners are —?

The National Board of Review in the US has beaten everybody else to the punch by coming out with its best for the 2001 film awards.

Its top 10 movies: "Moulin Rouge," "A.I., Artificial Intelligence," "Black Hawk Down," "The Man Who Wasn't There," "In the Bedroom," "Ocean's Eleven," "Memento," "The Pledge," "Mulholland Drive," and "Monster's Ball."

Only three of the 10 films have been shown here to date—a sad confirmation of the limited access we are given to outstanding movies.

This is due to the fact that the film distribution system in this country is controlled by the major companies, and distributors push only those movies which they feel can make a lot of money when shown in mainstream theaters.

This effectively makes it practically impossible for good but small independent films with

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

little star value to be released here. Lovers of good movies should really band together to protest this unenlightened state of affairs.

Even better, they should go out of their way to support only good movies, to convince producers and distributors that small but outstanding films should be shown here, because there's a substantial audience for them.

In any case, the US National Board of Review picked "Moulin Rouge" as the best of the lot for 2001—a potentially controversial decision, since some film buffs believe that, while Baz Luhrman's movie was big, brash and brassy, it was also a messy, mixed-up production.

Still, the nod in the direction of "Moulin Rouge" may influence other awards bodies to at least give the Nicole Kidman starrer a second, less fastidious look.

Another influential citation is the Board's award to "Shrek" as the year's best animated film. The Oscars are sure to notice this citation, because they're about to give their own first-ever award for best animated feature.

Even before the Board decided to honor "Shrek," it was already the favored film in the Oscars' new animated-feature category, so it looks like it's practically a done deal that the DreamWorks/PDI animated production will win the Oscar next year.

What about Disney's "Monsters, Inc.," which has gotten its share of plaudits and big box office? It's sure to be nominated for the Oscar, but "Shrek" appears to have the edge because it tackles more themes and has a wider range.

Feedback

FROM Jose Mari C. Maycacayan of Binangonan, Rizal: "I am really a fan of your column. It is very in-

formative, critical and analytical. I like and believe in your objective film and television reviews. You always criticize constructively.

"I know that you want to uplift the Philippines' television and film industries. TV and movies shape people's minds, so they are very influential."

'Broadcaster of the Year'

THE ASIAN Television Awards 2001's plum honor of Broadcaster of the Year has been conferred on MTV Networks Asia.

Other awards won by MTV programs talents: MTV India's Maha Kumbh Mela won in the Best Infotainment Program category, while "MTV UPPOP" received the Most Innovative Program award.

Runner-up citations: "MTV-CCTV Music Honors 2000" for Best Entertainment Special, and "MTV celebrates with Ricky Martin Live and Loaded" for Best Music Program.

Alice...

(From page A24)

produced and directed a documentary about their grandfather who was an American foot soldier.

"Memories of a Forgotten War" will premiere on Jan. 8 at the UP Film Center.

Alice says she will grace the premiere to lend moral support to her cousin.

'Single and free'

I CHATTED with Pops Fernandez during her birthday last Dec. 12 and told her we got a lot of mail from Martin-Pops fans, who felt sad after she admitted on nationwide TV that she's been dating again.

The French guy, Jacques Tupasquier, was seen with her during Franco Laurel's concert at Music Museum last month. Jacques was also at Pops' intimate birthday dinner with her close friends at Fidel, one of the new restaurants in Malate.

"Why will some fans feel sad now that I'm dating again?" asks Pops. "Martin (dated) Katrina (Ojeda) a long time ago. Now that it's my turn to date, why can't they give me a chance?"

Pops has been linked with several guys from show biz. But Jacques is the only man whom she has openly admitted to be seeing.

"I have nothing to hide," Pops says. "I'm single (again) and I'm free. I've been saying before that if a guy comes and I want to be seen with him, I will not hide it."

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Amy Austria is Marilou Abaya's signature actress

BESIDES Cesar Montano, director Marilou Diaz-Abaya also has a "signature actor" in the person of Amy Austria, who plays the female lead as Cesar's nurse-wife in "Bagong Buwan," Star Cinema's official entry to this year's Metro Manila Filmfest.

In the early years of her career, Amy did one movie for *direk* Marilou, the classic "Brutal." Marilou considers the movie as a milestone and landmark in her career because of its impact not only on the public but also on Amy's career.

In that 1980s intense drama, Amy played a battered wife so well that she won two best actress awards for it, one from the Famas and the other from the Metro Manila Filmfest.

"I have done several other movies, all right," admits Amy. "But many people remember me for my performance in 'Brutal.' *Talagang nagmarka sa isip ng mga tao.*"

Like *direk* Marilou and Cesar (for "Rizal" and "Muro-ami"), Amy can also be considered a Metro Filmfest "baby" because she has been figuring prominently in the annual filmfest.

In 1988, Amy bagged the best actress trophy in the Metro Filmfest for her remarkable performance as the lead in "Bubbles." The film-bio of a lesbian convicted for the murder of her lover was directed and produced by Carlo Caparas, with his wife, Donna Villa of Golden Lions Films.

Amy's other memorable performances include "Paano Ba ang Mangarap" (1985) as the scene-stealing office flirt, "Hinugot sa Langit" (with Maricel Soriano) as the headstrong girl and "Anak" (Star Cinema, 2000), where she played an OCW with Vilma Santos.

In "Bagong Buwan," scripted by Marilou with Ricky Lee and Jun Lana (the formidable "Rizal" team), and coproduced with Star Cinema by Bahaghari Productions, Amy is bound for glory, sure to earn more accolades for her sensitive portrayal of Fatima, the Muslim nurse-wife of Cesar.

"Bagong Buwan" also stars, among others, Caridad Sanchez, Nonie Buencamino, Ronnie Lazaro, Jiro Manio, Jhong Hilario, Desiree del Valle and Jericho Rosales.

Directors' Guild election

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Direktor ng Pelikulang Pilipino (KDPP) will hold the election of its new officers and members of the board at 2 p.m. today at Tropical Hut, Mother Ignacia St. (beside the new National Bookstore), Quezon City.

Lawyer Espiridon D. Laxa, chair of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), will supervise the election.

KDPP is one of the movie guilds under the umbrella of FAP. An on-the-floor open nomination of candidates will be held to elect the 15 members of the board and who will in turn elect the officers of the guild.

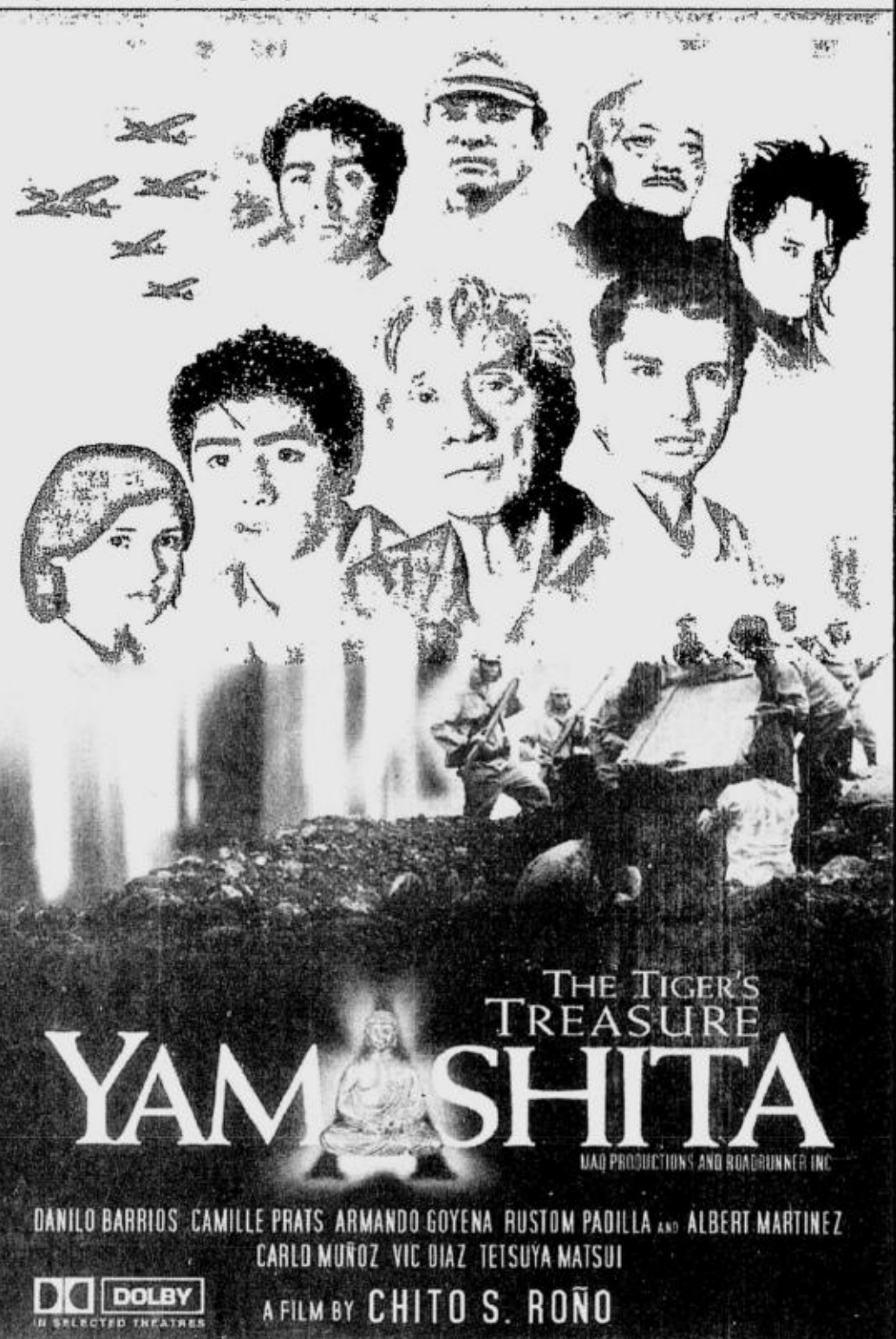


AMY Austria with veteran actress Caridad Sanchez in "Bagong Buwan."

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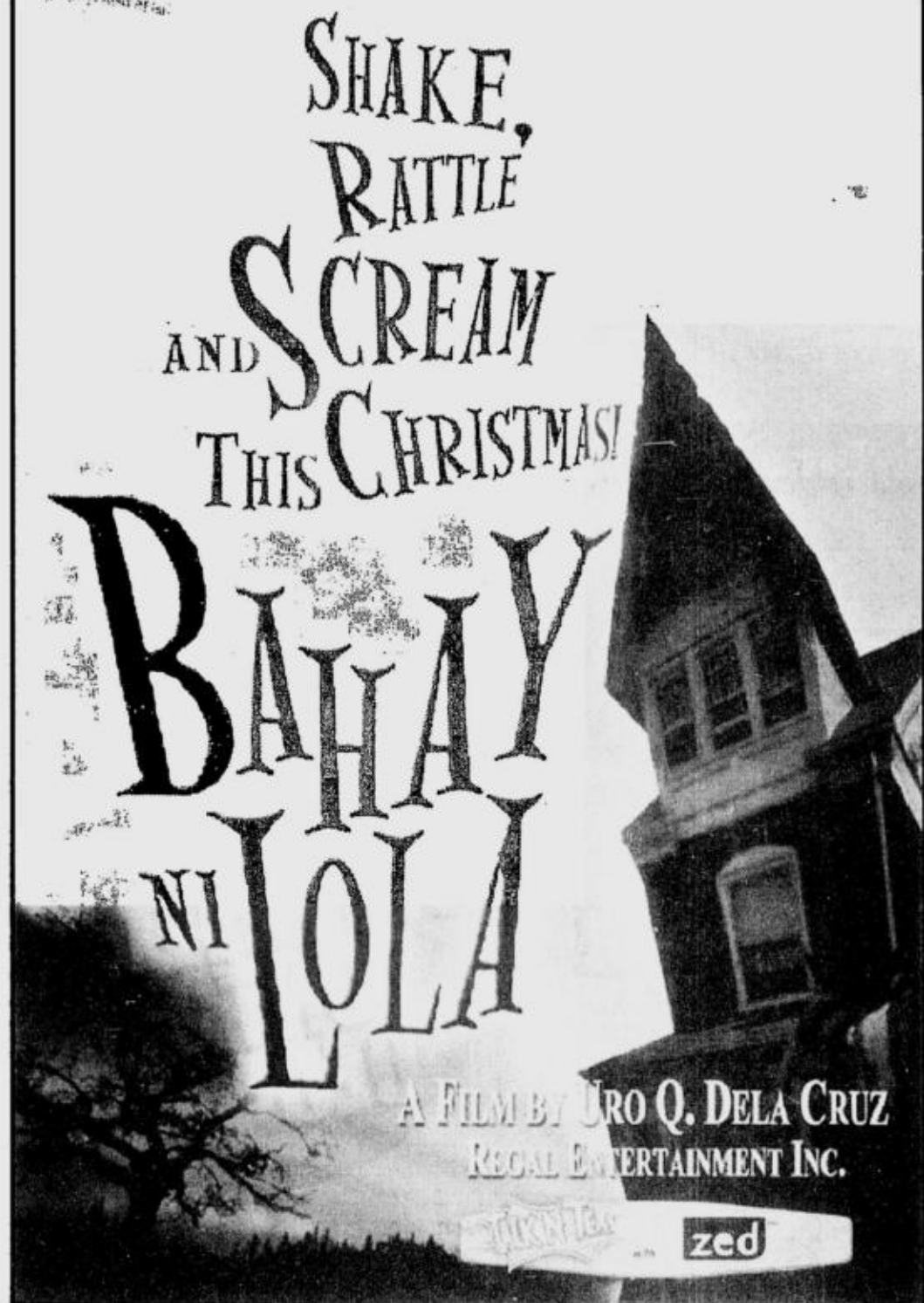


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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Winona Ryder arrested for illegal drug possession and shoplifting

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Actress Winona Ryder was arrested for illegal drug possession and shoplifting clothing from a Saks Fifth Avenue boutique, police said.

Security guards at the Wilshire Boulevard store detained the 30-year-old Wednesday after

discovering her trying to steal hair accessories and "numerous items of clothing" valued at \$4,760, Lt. Gary Gilmond said.

Police arrested her and later found she was carrying narcotics, he said. She was booked on charges of grand theft and possessing pharma-

ceutical drugs without a prescription. Police did not disclose the kind of drug.

Ryder's lawyer Mark Geragos denied the allegations. He said Ryder had a prescription for the painkillers and receipts for the items she allegedly stole.

"It's a misunderstanding on the part of the store," he said, adding that Ryder was carrying the items between store departments.

Gilmond said Ryder may have a prescription for the drugs, but she was booked because she couldn't immediately produce it. He added that store security officers saw a surveillance video in which Ryder was allegedly removing tags off clothes, a handbag and hair accessories. She was stuffing the items into a large bag with clothes she had purchased earlier.

Ryder was released from custody Wednesday night after posting \$20,000 bail.

Her publicist Mara Buxbaum said the actress had no immediate comment.

Ryder, the Oscar-nominated star of "Little Women" and "The Age of Innocence," is best known for playing ponderous, melancholy characters in movies such as "Girl, Interrupted" and "Reality Bites."

Ryder has maintained a grueling film schedule and has been hospitalized several times for exhaustion. Ryder lost a pivotal role in 1990's "The Godfather: Part III" days before filming began because of anxiety and exhaustion.

She has told reporters she sometimes tried to drown her anxiety attacks and depression in alcohol.

AP

Julia hosts, produces docu on friendships

LOS ANGELES—"Ocean's Eleven" star Julia Roberts is concentrating on friendships.

Roberts will be the host of the A&E documentary "Old Friends," which examines the enduring nature of friendships. It's scheduled for broadcast next year.

"Old Friends" focuses on three women from a small town outside Chicago. Mildred Mulligan, Helen Klipinger and Ann Pritchard met in elementary school in 1906. Now, 95 years later, they remain good friends.

Mulligan and Klipinger live in a retirement community in West Covina, where the three women celebrated Klipinger's 103rd birthday. The event was filmed for the documentary.

The documentary, now in production, also includes interviews with individuals of all ages and varying backgrounds about what it means to be a friend.

"Old Friends" hopes to capture the art of friendship, as well as the essence of growing up in America, A&E said.

"Old Friends" is produced by Revolution Studios and Roberts' Shoelace Productions. AP

Freestyle sings in Baguio again

BAGUIO CITY—Still reeling from its sold-out concert at the University of Baguio here six months ago, Freestyle, the country's most sought-after band, will conquer this mountain resort city again tonight.

Due to insistent public demand, Freestyle members Gerald Banzon, Carlo Tapia, cousins Tat and Christopher "Top" Suzara, Jinky Vidal and Nikki Cabardo are expected to dish out the latest pop and ballad songs from their newest album, "Freestyle All Hits: Live."

When Freestyle staged a concert last June, more than 5,000 students and fans packed the UB gym, prompting the producers to invite the all-pop band again before the year ends.

Freestyle's remake of the Ogie Alcasid heart-break song, "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" has made it a quadruple platinum group, a milestone improvement of its first hit, "Before I Let You Go."

Freestyle is sharing the stage with the First Circle at 7 tonight at the UB gym.

The event is produced by M.L.A. and Ice Production. PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Sharon' Christmas with BMG family

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta celebrates Christmas with her BMG family in her show, "Sharon," aired Sundays, 5:30 to 7 p.m. on ABS CBN.

Sharon, who recently released the album "All I Ever Want" under BMG Records Pilipinas, will be joined in the special Christmas presentation by Ariel Rivera, Anna Fegi, Ryan Cayabyab, Cooky Chua, Ciara Sotto, Lito Camo and the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

In her first ever Christmas with her BMG family, Sharon waxes romantic and nostalgic as she sings Christmas carols with other BMG artists.

"All I Ever Want," her first regional album, contains 11 songs, seven of which were composed by Ryan Cayabyab including the only Tagalog number "Nananabik Sa 'Yo."

International pianist Jim Brickman also collaborates with Sharon in "Where's the Good in Goodbye," the album's carrier track and "In Your Eyes," a duet with Andy Lau.

Other songs in the album are "All I Ever Want," "My Heart Beats for You," "Love is On My Disguise," "Are You That Someone?," "The Same Sad Song," "If Ever" and "You're the Only One."

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VENUE	DEC. 17	DEC. 18	DEC. 19	DEC. 20
GREENBELT 1	Bangkok Dangerous (Thailand)	Farielli (Belgium)	The King Is Dancing (Belgium)	No Man's Land (Belgium)
GREENBELT 2	The Isle (Korea)	Divided We Fall (Czech Republic)	Otesanek (Czech Republic)	Detector (Norway)
GREENBELT 3	Happy End (Korea)	Beau Travail (France)	Under The Sand (France)	The Price of Milk (New Zealand)
GLORIETTA 4	CINEMANILA 2001 AWARD WINNERS (To be announced)			

VENUE	DEC. 21	DEC. 22	DEC. 23	DEC. 24
GREENBELT 1 Black	Chunhyang (Korea)	Jan Dara (Thailand)	Divine (Mexico)	Tears of the Tiger (Thailand)
GREENBELT 2 &	This is My Moon (Sri Lanka)	Nang Nak (Thailand)	Spinning Gasing (Malaysia)	The Map Of Sex Love (Hong Kong)
GREENBELT 3	Clouds Of May (Turkey)	Dang Birely (Thailand)	Roads & Bridges (USA)	Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korea)
GLORIETTA 4	CINEMANILA 2001 AWARD WINNERS (To be announced)			

For more details, pls call Cinemania secretariat at 831-4782 & 882-2936; or visit Cinemania's website at www.cinemania.com.ph

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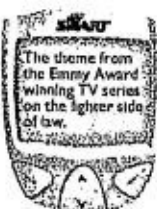
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WEEKLY DRAWS: (3 winners per draw) Dec. 21, 2001, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11, 2002	P10,000.00

*There will be a standard charge of P12.00 per ringtone download and P2.50 per message for all other transactions.

*Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date.

*Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.

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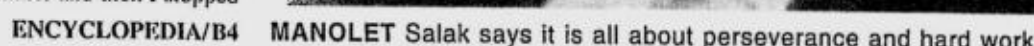
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He was 16 years old, a third year high school

Gould calls the services "one objective measure" of its service. The company also uses customer comment cards at its restaurants and a toll free number customers can call. **Reuters**

"We were like mercenaries. After two to three weeks' training, groups of 10 would be dropped off in a subdivision and we would spread out

"I only did it for one summer and then I stopped



or choose from other financing plans available.

Option 1

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT	INSTALLMENT 24 mos.	0% Interest	
Ghia AT	P765,000	P150,000	P25,625		

Option 2

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT	PAY 90 DAYS AFTER	INSTALLMENT 36 mos.	INSTALLMENT 48 mos.
Ghia AT	P765,000	P175,000		P20,500	P16,750

Option 3

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT	GRADUATED FINANCING (MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS)			
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Ghia AT	P765,000	P125,000	P14,995	P15,995	P16,995	P17,995

Option 4

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT	REGULAR INSTALLMENT for 36 mos.	REGULAR INSTALLMENT for 48 mos.
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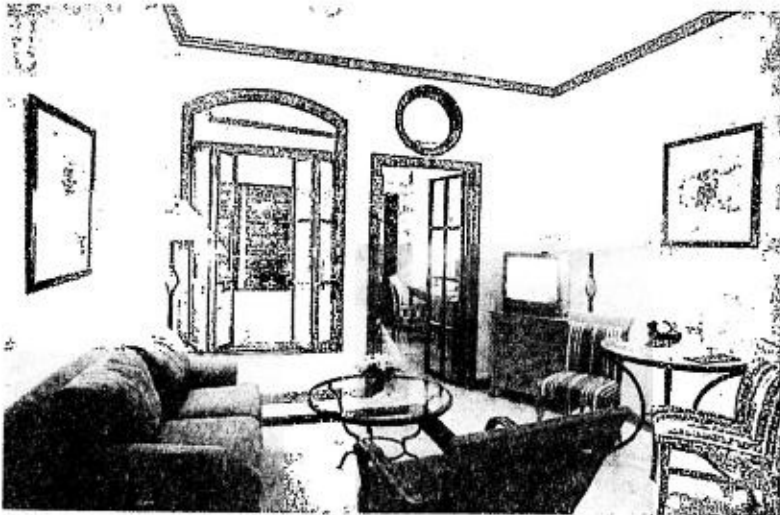
BY L. P. LEVISTE



NESTLÉ chief executive Juan Santos can breathe a little easier these days after the Swiss food giant was able to avert a strike in its Cabuyao, Laguna plant. Thanks to the government for its timely intervention. The closure of the Cabuyao, Plant could have crippled its regional production of infant formula.



INQUIRER contributor Angelina Goloy is this year's winner of the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Awards for Outstanding Journalism. Goloy won for her stories, "Continuing Saga of Land and Sea" and "Nature provides niche in Australian Tourism." Inquirer deskman Tina Arceo-Dumlao was also given the Philippines-Australia Business Council Choice Award. Other winners were Business World's Romulo Luib and Mary Elaine Friend. The 4th Anzcham Media Awards recognize journalists who have generated an increased awareness and understanding on Australia and New Zealand. (From left) Rene Fuentes, PABC chair, Reynaldo Concepcion, Romulo Luib, Tina Arceo-Dumlao, Angelina Goloy, Australian charge de'Affairs Tony Melville, Mary Friend, Bill Mason and Honeybee Hubahib of Qantas Airways.



THE HOTEL'S deluxe suite with its bedroom and parlor.

Commerce, not censorship, threatens free press

"The Elements of Journalism"
By Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel
Crown Publishers, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

HUNDREDS of thousands of text messages made possible the 2001 uprising called "Edsa Dos." It was different in 1986, when "Edsa One" happened—propelled by "xerox journalism." You might not have noticed it, but the "great digital divide" happened between the two popular peaceful uprisings, Pinoy style.

In 1986, we received our news from the "mosquito press" led by the newborn Philippine Daily Inquirer and a paper by Joe Burgos Jr., and from xeroxed stories on the latest news on the dictator from Time Magazine and the Far Eastern Economic Review.

It was a case of big organizations "mediating" the flow of news.

However, in 2001, the media landscape had profoundly changed. The flow of news did not come from big organizations but from text messages from all conceivable sources and places. And then, in a matter of minutes, people began walking and driving toward Edsa Shrine. The rest was political history driven by the "new media."

"Technology now made information available to too many people, too quickly. And information created democracy." These lines are from the book, "Elements of Journalism." Without even knowing it, it has just described what happened at Edsa Dos.

The book, subtitled "What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect," may at first glance look like a book for journalists. In reality, however, since news is the business of those who produce, distribute and use it—then journalism is indeed the business of everyone.

So, depending on the lens you use when you read this book, you will come away overwhelmed by the continued power of the press, disturbed by the dangers posed by commercialization and entertainment, and encouraged by the commitment of journalists and media owners who continually review their relevance and guard their time-honored role and independence.

This book is actually a result of the thorough study of 25 most influential journalists in America, calling themselves "Committee of Concerned Journalists," to find out what had happened and what's happening to "their profession" in the light of risks. For example, full of insight, the book says:

"The threat is no longer simply from government censorship. The new danger is that independent journalism may be dissolved in the solvent of commercial communication and synergistic self-promotion."

So, how did the Committee go about discussing the future of journalism? It began with the necessary first step: define "journalism." Of course, the resistance was immediate. One surveyed group asserted, "To define journalism is to limit it." But the Committee offers a definition anyway:

"The primary purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to be free and self-governing."

Of course, this definition addresses a reality that people seem to concentrate more on "consumers" rather than on "citizens."

The tension is palpable between what the Committee feels important—which are mainly in the realm of politics (in a good sense) like citizenship participation and democracy—and what's going on: a population identified as "entertainment consumers."

Are the new media good news or bad news? The book quotes a Polish leader who figured in the fight for freedom in his country. Interviewed by journalists in Washington D.C. in 1989, Lech Walesa was asked: "Is it possible for a new Stalin to appear today who could murder people?" Walesa's answer: "It's impossible!" And he went on to explain that, in the age of computers, satellites, faxes and VCRs, a modern-day Stalin could not impose his will.

Is it the business of non-journalists to worry about the future of journalism? It's like asking, is it everyone's business to get the news it wants—factual, balanced, fair and unbiased?

The book waxes eloquent when it addresses this issue. The authors say, "The purpose of journalism is not defined by technology. The principles and purpose of journalism are defined by something more basic—the function news plays in the lives of people."

To drive the point home, the book quotes respected practitioners, like NBC's Tom Brokaw, who said: "I've felt strongly for a long time that we proceed best as a society if we have a common base of information." James Carey, one of the founders of the Committee, shared an insight: "Perhaps, in the end, journalism simply means carrying on and amplifying the conversation of people themselves."

While the definition of the function remain almost constant through time, the book underscores an important role for journalists, quoting John Seeley Brown, former director of Xerox PARC, Silicon Valley's think tank: "What we need in the new economy and the new communications culture is sense making. We have a desperate need to get some stable points in an increasingly crazy world."

We need anchors in a world of shifting sands, and journalism—rich in experience, gifted with perspective, and independent (hopefully!)—can provide meaning in the midst of information explosion in varying forms (translated: chaos).

In the end, the book takes a stand on the function of journalism to empower citizens, even as it offers its analysis of three key forces "disconnect-

BILL KOVACH
& TOM ROSENSTIEL

THE
ELEMENTS

OF
JOURNALISM

What Newspeople Should Know
and the Public Should Expect

ing" journalism from citizen building—new technology, globalization and conglomeration. Locally, conglomeration presents worrisome prospects, if we follow the book's assertion—which runs:

"The conglomeration of the news business threatens the survival of the press as an independent institution, as journalism becomes a subsidiary inside large corporation more fundamentally grounded in other business purposes." The book says that business conglomerates with news media as subsidiaries, may be more concerned with "free economic competition, not free speech."

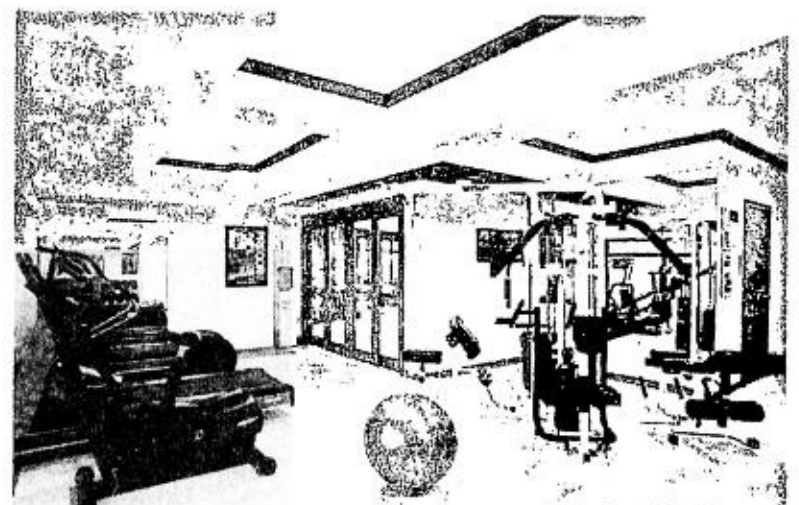
This is a "fundamental and epic change with enormous implications for democratic society," the authors point out. So, how does an employee-journalist address the issue? The book quotes Nick Clooney, former newscaster in Los Angeles, who has practiced this line for a confrontation with his employer: "I don't work for you. You're paying my check, and I'm very pleased. But the truth of the matter is, I don't work for you, and if it comes down to a question of loyalty, my loyalty will be to the person who turns on the television set."

This book of 194 pages is a thoroughly researched and insightfully reasoned document, riveting your attention, because it backs up significant assertions with stories and quotes that truly give the discussion a sense of immediacy and importance. It is a book for executives who must understand media and their noble calling—being the last bulwark of democracy.

The book is short in pages but long in sharp observations and recommendations, enabling even non-journalists like those in the business community to have a refreshing and respectful view of journalists (never mind the bad eggs). Journalists, after all, actually fulfill the role they alone can play: provide news and give sense to events—so that, under a democratic framework, we can truly govern ourselves. (dantemv@i-next.net)

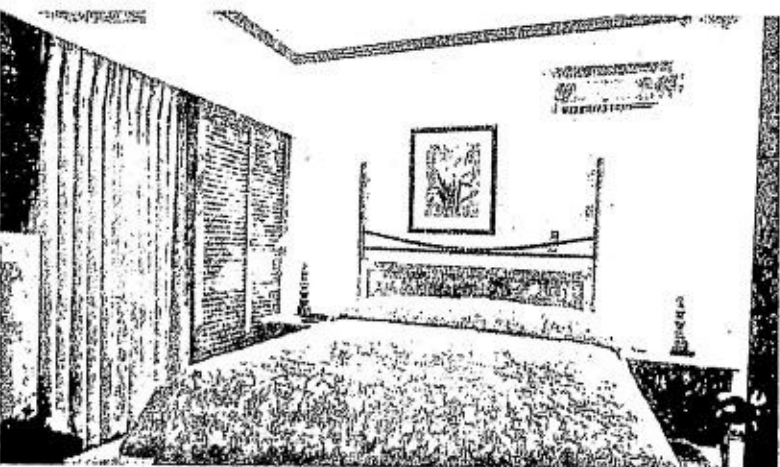


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THE VIVERE at the Richville Regency Suites combines business and pleasure, even in the architecture.

NESTLED in southern Metro Manila's premier business and commercial district is the first in a chain of residential hotels offering five-star amenities and service for discerning businessmen.

Vivere at the Richville Regency Suites is a new property that wants to cater to corporate travelers looking for accommodations for both business and pleasure. It has facilities for lodging, dining and for seminars and functions.

There are also units set aside for those looking for a different residential condominium unit.

A major advantage of staying at the Vivere (which is Latin for "to live") is its location. The residential hotel stands in a non-congested spot inside the Filinvest Corporate City, right across the Festival Supermall.

It is close to other major destinations in the south such as the Madrigal Business Park, the Manila Domestic and International Airports, and the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal) area. Vivere is just 15 kilometers south of Makati, 2 km away from the Alabang Town Center, and a stone's throw from the modern Asian Medical Hospital.

Rolando Garcia, president of the Richville Regency Suites, says the concept for the premier residential hotel is that of an urban resort.

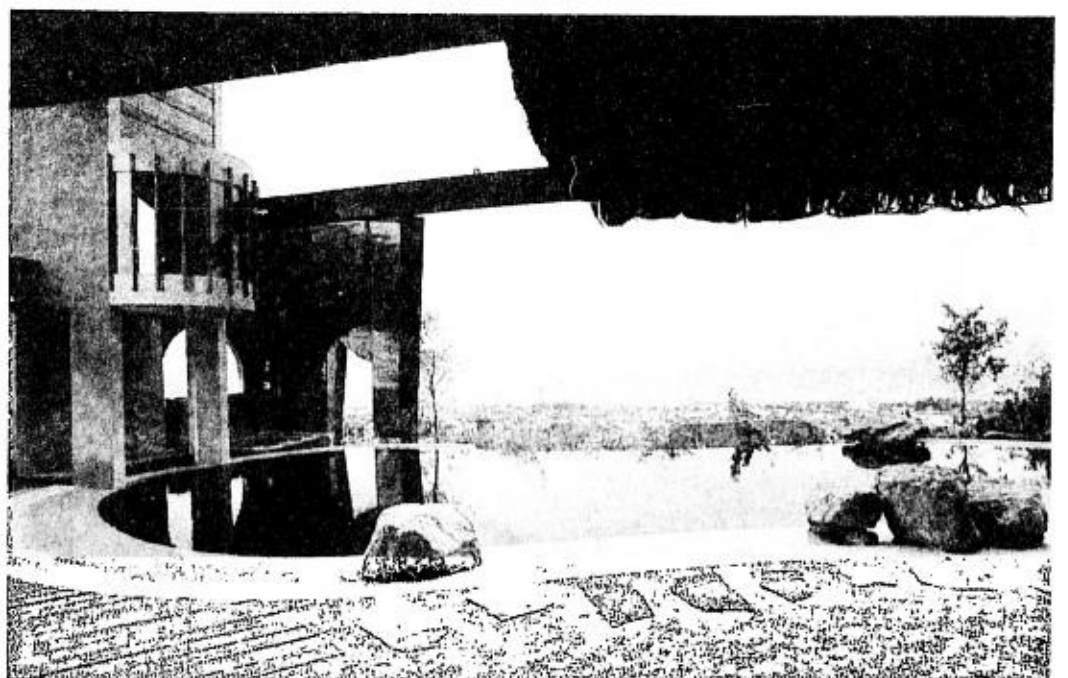
"We wanted to give our clientele the feel of a hotel within the city," he says.

Comfort, a homey atmosphere, and nature, he adds, are management's main concerns.

The residential hotel also kept the hotel guests' convenience, safety and health in mind. It put in place features such as CCTVs to monitor public areas within the hotel, business centers and function rooms that can accommodate 10 to 200 people.

It also has recreational facilities like an "Infinity" pool and bar at the Richville Sky Lounge located at the roof deck or 31st floor.

Elvi S. Berlin, general manager of Vivere, says the company has already provided live-in seminar facilities to big companies like Goodyear.



RELAX at the Richville Skylounge with its view of Laguna de Bay.

Other reputable firms that have booked at the Vivere include Shimizu Philippine Contractors, Intel, Amkor Anam Pilipinas, Rohm Electronics, Philips, Shell, Texaco and Fluor Amec/Fluor Daniel.

Vivere has positioned itself as the "businessman's hotel" in the south, and is gearing to capture more corporate clients in the coming year.

At Vivere, "every room is different from the others," Garcia says.

The 270 rooms are not so big (ranging from 33 to 105 sq.m.), but are functional.

There is a kitchenette with microwave oven and gas range, television and Internet access, bathtub and

other amenities.

Guests may check in at Vivere on a daily, monthly or yearly basis. Secure parking facilities have been allotted at the third to seventh floors of the building, while the rooms are situated from the eighth to the upper floors.

A convenience/miscellaneous store exists at the eight floor lobby, right next to the Business Center to cater to the communications requirements of guests on the go. The fitness gym with physical therapists and expert trainers, sauna, jacuzzi, and pool bar overlooking the Laguna de Bay and Alabang skyline are located at the 31st floor.



COUNTRY business manager Nina Aguas (center) and her Citibank team get ready to load up their pails of goodies for distribution to the less fortunate families.

Bank scraps fanfare to bring pails of cheer

THIS year, Citibankers will be celebrating Christmas sans the fanfare of a party. In the true spirit of the season, they have opted to share their blessings with the less fortunate all around Metro Manila and in Metro Cebu.

Led by Country business manager Nina Aguas, over 300 Citibankers in several groups visited 19 barangays to distribute pails of goodies or the "balde ng biyaya." Some 4,700 families from Quezon City, San Juan, Manila, Rizal, Makati, Pasay, Marikina, Parañaque, Alabang and Cebu City benefited from the project.

Why "balde ng biyaya?" "For some families, Christmas will just be another day to survive. In our small way, we hoped to provide them with some Noche Buena fare they can all share. Christmas is the one day of the year where there should be food on the table," related Aguas.

Aguas herself was surprised by the enthusiastic response the project received from Citibankers. "We wondered if there would be resentment because we decided not to have a Christmas party and channel our funds towards this charity program. Instead we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the officers and staff."

Citibank shouldered the cost for the initial 3,000 pails. A number of employees who wanted to make sure there will be more to go around paid for additional pails out of their own pocket—boosting the total to over 4,700.

And so on Dec. 8, Citibankers boarded several vans and drove off to their barangay-beneficiaries. For some it took the whole morning, and for the others, it was a whole day affair—but nobody complained about giving up their Saturday for the project.

Citibanker Pinky Martelino described the experience as "priceless." "The Christmas spirit was definitely in the air, and we didn't even have a Santa Claus with us."

It wasn't exactly hitch-free because in some barangays, where families lined up as early as six in the morning, the delivery of the pails was delayed by a few hours. But for Pinky and her group, a miracle happened when Purefoods' franchise player Alvin Patrimonio appeared out of nowhere to the delight of the crowd. When the commotion died down, the pails had arrived for distribution!

For another Citibanker, Mon del Rosario, it was a humbling experience meeting the families from Barangay Bagumbayan in Libis. "Everyday we report for work in our Libis office and the demands of the job will make you think of nothing else. Visiting this barangay which is just a stone's throw away made me realize we don't have to go far to be able to help people."

Italy banks on golden king of cheeses—parmesan

PARMA, Italy—Gourmets aren't the only ones who think parmesan cheese is golden.

In the fertile plains surrounding the northern Italian city of Parma, regional banks have for decades been running parmesan accounts—offering low interest loans with cheese as security.

Banco Credito Emiliano owns the warehouse run by William Bizzarri in the small town of Montecavallo near Parma.

Hundreds of thousands of golden wheels of ripening cheese, stacked as far as the eye can see, stand in a warehouse as both their flavor and monetary value grows.

"If you go to the bank for a loan without offering a guarantee, you'll end up paying about eight percent," Bizzarri told Reuters as he walked down the aisles of his warehouse, which houses 300,000 cheeses.

"But if you offer cheese as a guarantee, the loan will only cost about 6 percent."

The warehouse offers dairies and cheesemakers short-term financing which expires when the cheese is ready to sell.

"Cheese accounts" are linked to a regular account at the bank.

"When the cheese enters the warehouse we assess its value and offer a loan of between 65 and 70 percent of its value accordingly," Bizzarri said.

A fresh form of parmesan cheese weighing 50 kg (110 lb) sheds 12 kg (26 lb) as it matures. But as the months pass, the value rises.

After 12 months the price is about \$10.50 a kilogram (2.2 lb) wholesale while cheese aged for 24 months or longer is even more expensive. In the food hall at Harrods store in London, a kg of two-year-aged parmesan sells for about \$45.

Parmesan's fame has paid off. It is one of the most prized cheeses on the planet and has even made it into space, becoming a flavorful nourishment for NASA astronauts in 1996.

For banks around Parma, where 15 percent of Italy's entire milk production takes place, banking on the cheese's economic value was an obvious step.

"It is a low-risk loan for the bank, we get the cheese and the client, because if a producer trusts us with his cheeses then he is likely to come back for mortgages and other loans," said Bizzarri.

The smell of money

The concept of accepting cheese as a financial guarantee on loans was a natural progression for banks in the mainly agricultural and food producing Emilia Romagna area, home to delights such as Parma ham as well as parmesan.

"The idea dates from 1930. To be labeled as DOC, parmesan must sleep in the specific cheese belt," Bizzarri said, referring to the highest grade of quality awarded in Italy.

Reuters



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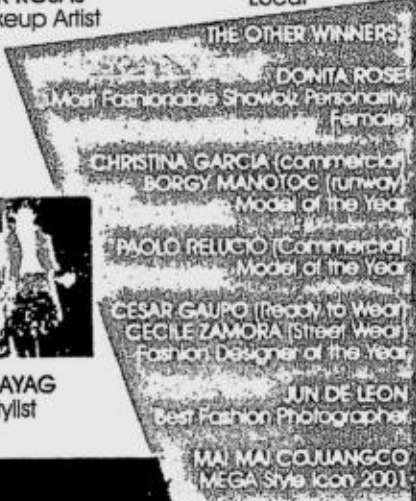
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Encyclopedia salesman at 16; Dutch bank director at 41

(From page B1)

because my friend suffered from sunstroke. After that I thought the effort was no longer worth the reward," Salak says.

Honor student

The perseverance and hard work he acquired from selling, he applied to his studies.

After high school, he went to the Ateneo de Manila University where he took up economics, graduating with honors in 1980.

"I really was not too sure what I wanted to do which was why I took up economics," Salak says. He once toyed around with the idea of following in the footsteps of his father, journalist and editor Maning Salak but his Papa was the first to discourage him from entering the trade. The martial law era, after all, was not kind to journalists working for a cause.

So into economics he went and after school, he immediately got a job as a management trainee with the Jardine Davies group where he worked for a year.

He stopped to pursue further studies at the Asian Institute of Management where he graduated in 1983 with a Master's degree in Business Management.

At that time the last thing that he wanted to do was to become a banker. Fate, however, works in strange ways and he ended up being one.

"I remember that I was playing basketball at AIM and I was on my way back to the dormitory when my friends told me that there was a big recruitment program at the Bank of the Philippine Islands. I said I did not want to go because I did not want to be a banker," he says.

His friends, however, convinced him to go since the food was good he had nothing else better to do. So he went and signed up and when he was asked to go back for the interviews and the tests, his father encouraged him to go, telling him that the activity would serve as practice for other job applications.

Reluctant banker

Salak, the reluctant banker, found himself staying with BPI for 10 years.

Again, he joined as a management trainee for the Bank Officers Development Program, then BPI's premier training program.

Upon completing the program, his next five years were spent in corporate banking and another five years were spent doing corporate finance.

While in BPI, Salak was involved in landmark transactions that included initial public offerings for Ayala Land and Manila Electric Co., and advising on the acquisition of the Philippine Airlines.

At the end of 10 years he retired from BPI and went to the then Baring Brothers Ltd. in March 1994 with the task of building the group's corporate finance division.

After a year, the venerable London merchant bank, Barings, which was founded in 1762, went bankrupt as a result of Nick Leeson's forgettable trading activities.

"It was a different feeling coming from a rock solid organization to a company that just suddenly went bankrupt. But I was glad to know that there were people who were willing to take me on. I decided to stick with Barings and I did a lot of convincing to make the team in both the securities and corporate finance group stay with the company," Salak explains.

The team stayed and when ING bought Barings, they became the corporate finance group of the ING Barings office in Manila.

The team was instrumental in making the Philippine franchise an IPO powerhouse.

Transactions during this period included most of the initial public offerings such as those of Petron, SM Prime Alaska Milk Corp., C&P Homes, Fortune Cement Corp., Uniwide Holdings and Hi Cement Corp.

These deals earned for ING Barings accolades like the "Philippine Finance House of the Year" (1996) and "Philippine Loan House of the Year" (1997-1998).

Bigger challenges came his way when he was named managing director and head of corporate and investment banking of ING Barings.

Despite the difficult times, ING Barings dominated the mergers and acquisitions action from April 1999 to July last year.

These included the acquisition of Smart Philippines Inc. by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the sale of PCI Bank and the JG Summit group's divestment of Apo Cement and the acquisition of Solidbank by Metrobank.

These deals made ING Barings 1999's "Asian M&A House of the Year."

For these efforts, Salak was named country head of ING Barings in 2000. He was 41.

He is responsible for the operations of ING Barings Manila, including corporate and investment banking, financial markets, equity markets, trust, branch and private banking, but he is primarily responsible for corporate and investment banking.

Influences

Looking back, Salak says he owes his relatively fast climb up the ladder to the values of hard work and people relations that he learned from his father, who worked late nights just to put food on the table, and his mother, who had excellent people skills while working in the advertising section of different newspapers.

21-YEAR-OLD Salak graduates from the Ateneo in 1980.



"My father always taught me and my siblings that we should never go for a lazy moment and that we should always be fair to the organization that we work for. My mother, on the other hand, is a strong personality. They are inspirations for excellence," Salak adds.

His high performance standards, combined with excellent people skills, made him a natural leader for the organization. He drove his people to aspire for the same standards of excellence that he has become a convenient excuse to explain why his staff go home late or work even during weekends.

"In fact I think this is the only year that I will not (touch wood) be required to go to work on New Year's Eve," Salak says.

It is not unusual, he says, for people in corporate finance to work long hours and even extend to weekends because of the sensitive nature of the work and the tight deadlines they have to meet.

But they do it, he says, because they have fun. "One of my strongest work principles is to work very hard but have fun doing it. This was one of the first advice I got when my first boss recruited me at Barings. You have to like the job to stay in it," he says.

Who would not like to be in corporate finance, Salak says, when you find yourself involved in deals that are worth millions of dollars, dealing with the chief executive officers of the top corporations and get the chance to learn their business philosophies first hand.

Thrill of hunt

"It's the thrill of the hunt. That all time high when you win a mandate and do a successful closing. But it's not only that. Beyond deals you have to be honest in providing real value-added services. And you have to build long and sustained relationships. I would say that I have fun because I get to learn from these people, their maxims and their philosophies. These contribute to your outlook on life," he says.

At 42—would Manolo consider himself young? Not really, he says, as the average age of successful people in this industry is about 28 years old.

Some of the CEOs, he says, feel a bit fatherly toward him. There are some, on the other hand, who feel concerned about his youth.

"I remember one person coming up to me during a party for private banking clients. She told me that she was tempted to withdraw her money when she saw how young I was," she says.

Family life

Aside from his parents, Salak also credits his early marriage to his success in the corporate world.

Salak and his wife, Rosana, met in college and they got married almost right after college. They were 23.

They now have four children. Paula is 18, Laura, 17; Timothy Manuel, 14, and Patricia, 10.

"I think getting married early helped because it made me independent and mature early. It also developed a sense of responsibility. I also think that it helped stretch my outlook, allowing me to relate to both the old and the young generations," he says.

"And my wife has been a great supporter," he adds.

Salak says these people skills are vital to someone in the world of corporate finance. It helps him deal with clients and also deal with the 150 employees under him.

"My people say that I can be brutal or amiable dependent on what is required," he says.

"I owe a lot to the people in the organization. All of ING's success in the Philippines, he says, is largely attributable to the excellent quality of colleagues that he gets to work with," he adds.

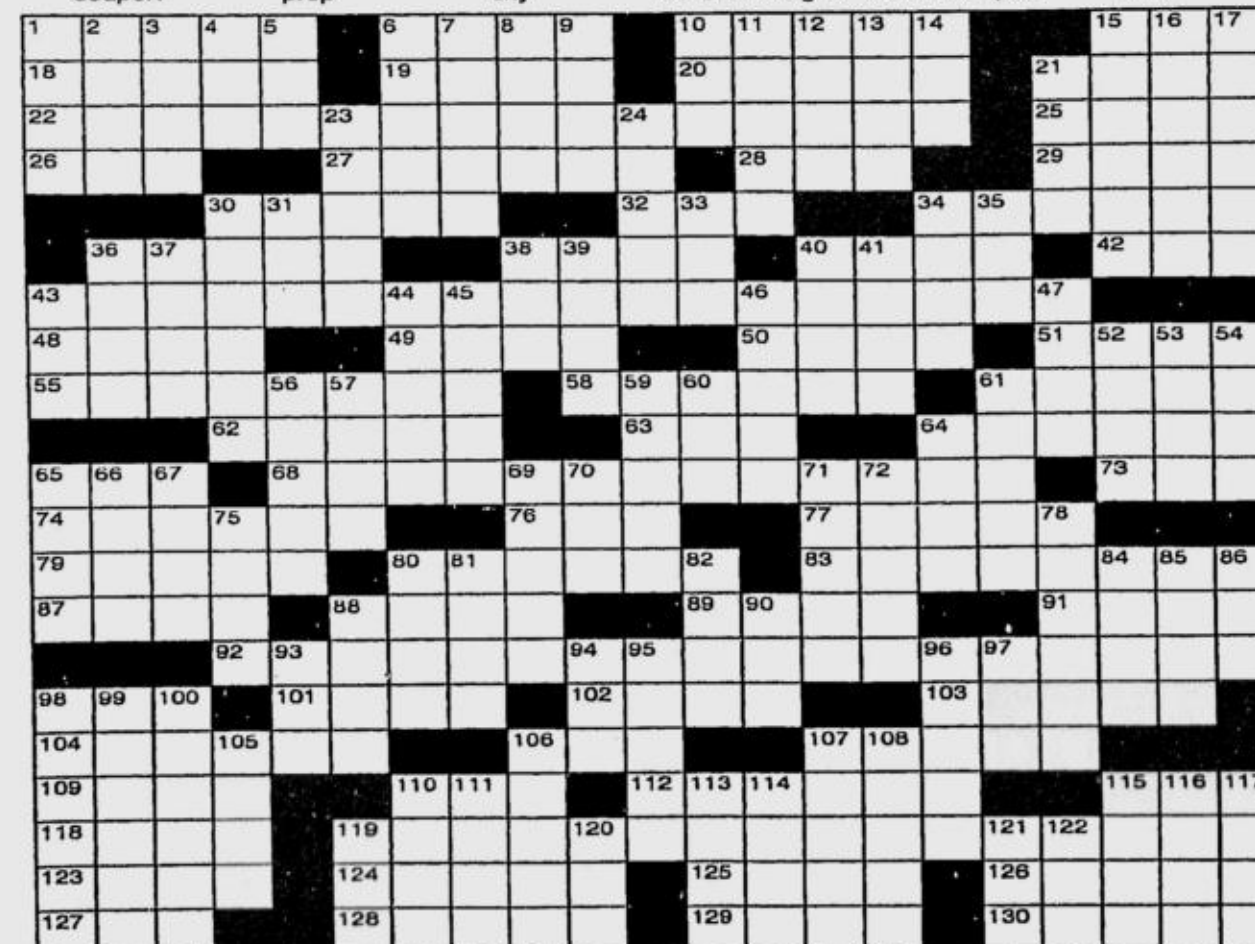
Last but not least, Salak says that everybody should owe their success to the grace of God.

"All things come from Him, and everything else is a result of your being the instrument of His corporate policy," he adds.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

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ANSWER ON PAGE E2



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HINT: Check out Business section on Monday, December 17, for Inquirer's My Wish Box.

Global brands ring up rising sales worldwide

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

THERE are brands, and there ARE brands.

In a recent study—"Reaching the Billion-Dollar Mark"—research firm ACNielsen reported that only 43 brands owned by 23 manufacturers could be considered truly global, ringing up annual sales of over \$1 billion.

These brands rack up over \$125 billion each year.

"Despite a proliferation of brands in the marketplace and a focus by major manufacturers on being more global, there are relatively few global mega-brands out there today," ACNielsen managing director for global services Jane Perrin said.

"We looked at well over 200 brands in this study and although more than half had a global presence, they just didn't have over a billion dollars in sales," Perrin added. "Over the next few years, we expect this picture will change dramatically."

Beverage category

The beverage category had the most billion-dollar brands. Nearly a third of the 43 global brands were some type of beverage: five carbonated beverages, two juice brands, one sports drink, two coffee brands and three beer brands.

The Coca-Cola Co. topped the list among beverage companies in the survey, with well over \$15 billion in sales in 30 countries.

Two of the company's sub-brands—Coke and Diet Coke—were billion-dollar brands in their own right. PepsiCo Inc. and its associate brands, Pepsi and Diet Pepsi, ranked as the No. 2 beverage brand.

Although no other single food group had as significant a number of brands included as the beverage category, three snack foods—Pringles, Lay's and Doritos—stood out with over \$1 billion in sales. Soup (Campbell's), cereal (Kellogg's), yogurt (Danone), cheese (Philadelphia), chewing gum (Wrigley's) and chocolate (Kinder) each had one brand on the list.

Pet foods were represented by a dog-food brand (Pedigree), a cat-food brand (Whiskas) and a brand that catered to both cats and dogs (Friskies).

Four tobacco brands—Marlboro, Benson & Hedges, Camel, and L&M—met the billion-dollar category.

Of the remaining 14 brands, no one category emerged as dominant.

Both the battery and diaper categories each had two: Duracell and Energizer, and Pampers and Huggies.

In hair care, two billion-dollar brands emerged—Pantene in the shampoo and condi-

tioner category and L'Oreal in the colorants category.

Other categories with billion-dollar brands are moisturizers and cleansers (Nivea), toothpaste (Colgate), facial tissues (Kleenex), over-the-counter pain remedies (Tylenol), film (Kodak), blades and razors (Gillette), and sanitary protection (Always).

Only one household product was on the list: Tide, a laundry detergent. Although manufacturers market the same households and cleaning products around the world, they are often marketed under different brand names.

Regional preference

Out of the 23 manufacturer of the 43 billion-dollar brands, eight had more than one product. PepsiCo had the most brands with six. Procter & Gamble and The Philip Morris Cos. each had five brands. Coca-Cola had four brands, while Kimberly-Clark, Gillette, Mars and Nestle each had two.

In each of the four regions covered by the survey—North America, Latin America, Asia Pacific, and Europe-Middle East-Africa—Coca-Cola and Marlboro were consistently the top two brands in each region.

One key finding is that all brands had their largest market shares in either North America or Europe-Middle East-Africa. This is explained by the fact that out of the countries included in the report, 32 percent of the world's gross domestic product and Europe, 33 percent.

Asia and Latin America represented 20 and 5 percent.

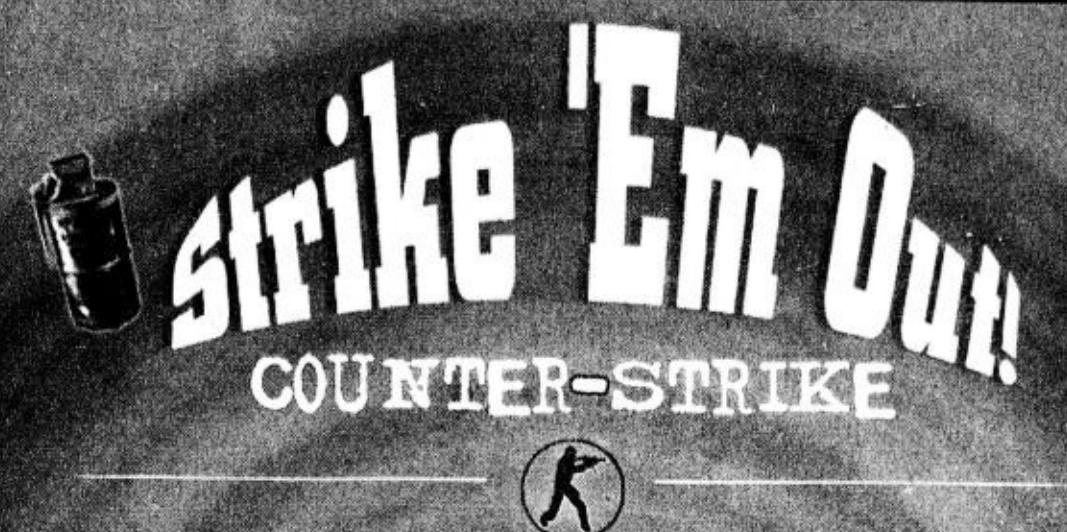
Sixteen brands were dominant in Europe-Middle East-Africa. Eight—Benson & Hedges, Guinness, Heineken, Kinder, L&M, Nivea, Whiskas and Camel—had at least 70 percent of their sales in the region, with two—Irish brand Guinness and Italian brand Kinder—accounting for as much as 90 percent.

On the other side of the spectrum, Tylenol was only in a handful of countries in Europe and played a relatively minor role.

In North America, 24 brands were dominant. Eleven—Budweiser, Campbell's, Gatorade, Kodak, Kleenex, Lay's, Maxwell House, Minute Maid, Tide, Tropicana and Tylenol, had 70 percent of their sales in the region.

Three brands—Campbell's, Tide and Tylenol—had over 90 percent of their sales in the region.

Within categories, the report found some strong regional preferences. Maxwell House ranked higher than Nescafe in North America. Nescafe, however, edged out Maxwell in Europe, Asia and Latin America.



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BMW 325i Exec	2,700,000	540,000	56,856

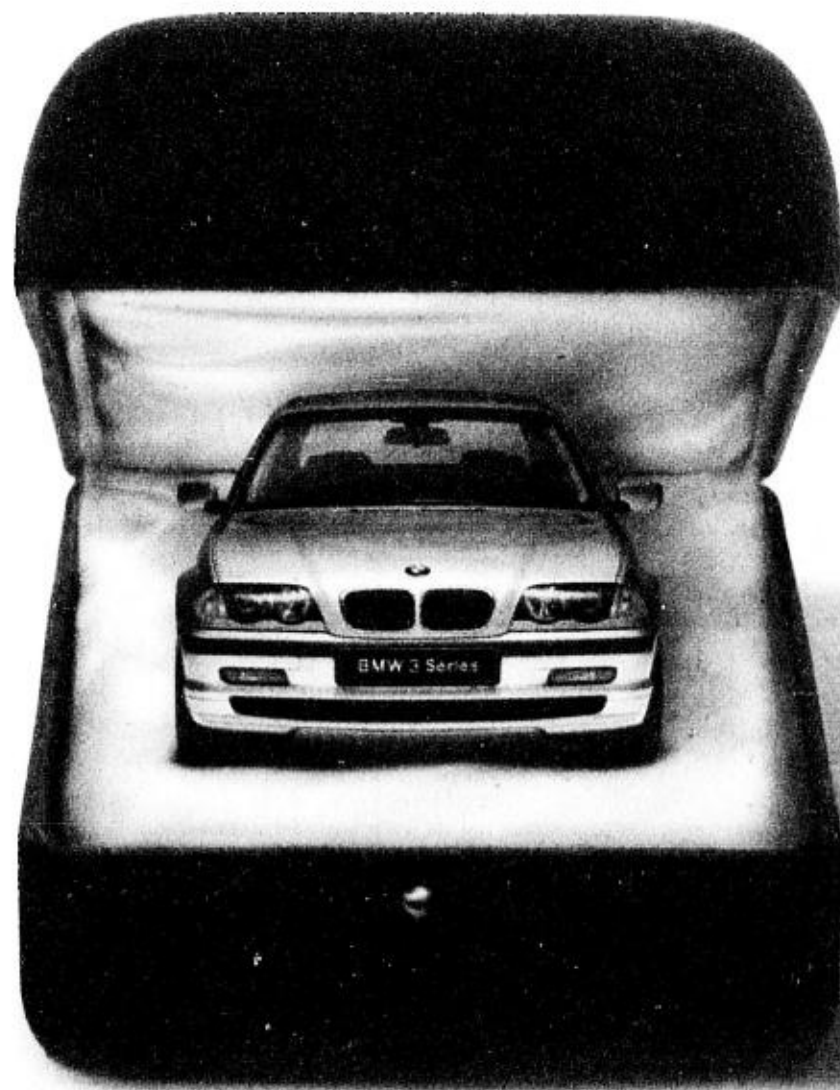
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TRAVEL

ROSARIO M. DELA CRUZ, Editor

Marvelous Marinduque



TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ELIZABETH LOLARGA

"What was I reading? I want to convey a mood, and what you are reading is a constituent of how you feel. In biographies they should always tell us that, routinely, in the margins: what they were reading." — Martin Amis in "Experience"

THE TAIL of a typhoon, a spotted butterfly released from a triangular pink packet amid cries of "Mabuhay," the crispness of the skin of a roast pig, and Amis writing at length about his dental problems are some of the impressions I brought home from a brief visit early last month to the province of Marinduque.

In my ears I can still hear Josef Schroetter's impassioned plea: "I have not the power to do it. Tell them Marinduque is not something to eat. It is an island in the Philippines!" (Schroetter, proprietor of Kataala Beach Resort and Restaurant, had left Austria to settle in Bacong Bacong, Gasan.)

On the day we left Manila, typhoon "Nanang" was furiously lashing the southern islands and the flights to Dumaguete and Bacolod were being cancelled one by one. Our traveling companion from Asian Spirit, Aldea Engracia, checked every now and then at her airline's desk at the domestic airport to find out how long the delay of the flight to Boac, Marinduque's capital, would be. We got held up by an hour, time enough to warm and wake the body with a cup of coffee.

But it was a turbulent 45 minutes in the air as the winds tossed our 19-seat plane about. When we were about to land, the welcoming party below thought we would crash in the nearby rice field. But at the crucial second the pilot was able to swing the plane to the runway.

At the arrival area the Kalutang Band, nine men in Lions Club shirts from Barangay Bambang, Gasan, struck pieces of *kwatungan*, a soft wood, to the tune of "Mabuhay," "Leron, Leron Sinta" and "Magtanim ay Di Biro." Joven Lilles, a geologist who also serves as a tour guide, told me, "You can even request them to play 'Wooden Heart.'" Wouldn't that just be so apt and more unique than music from a drum-and-bugle corps?

Someone noted how pale and in near shock I was (close to throwing up, actually) and plied me with hot

water at the Boac Hotel, the oldest and first in the province (set up when the Marcopper mines were opened and the foreign executives needed a place to stay). Only when the queasiness subsided minutes later did I savor the local *danggit* and *longganisa*. Right away Cesar Cruz, general manager of TRIPS Travel in Makati, placed an order for a kilo of the latter.

Butterflies

Hustled into the provincial government's coaster, we alighted at the capitol to call on Her Elegance. The governor, Carmencita Ongsiako Reyes, was at the main door smiling and offering her hand. We received triangular envelopes and inside each one was a live butterfly. The governor quoted a native legend that goes: "To make a wish come true, you must first capture a butterfly and whisper your wish to it. Then you set the butterfly free and it will take your wish to the heavens. It shall be granted."

Inside the provincial capitol compound 1,250 square meters have been set aside for a farm that showcases the butterfly industry. But only the pupae can be exported; dried or preserved butterflies cannot be taken out of the country. (In local parlance, the butterfly is called *bila-bila*, and the moth *paro-paro*.)

A choral group performed the *puting*, putting on our heads *nito*—woven crowns with a miniature Moriones mask likeness at the center, and handing us scepters of birds of paradise. A *barang*-clad man bent over me, and I offered to shake his hand. But no, he wanted a waltz. So there we were, media persons and tour operators, gliding on the wooden floor and being showered with flowers for good health and with coins for good fortune.

Governor Reyes is bent on turning her province into a year-round destination for domestic and foreign visitors, not just during Holy Week's Moriones rites. She is quick to qualify that the Moriones is not a festival but a Lenten ritual wherein men don the masks as a form of penitence and thanksgiving for favors granted.

The much-prized masks were formerly made of *dapdap* wood, but since trees need to be saved, *papier mâché* is now the material being used, she said.

Marinduque has also performed well in the Clean and Green competition. If the Marcopper mining disaster is still fresh in some people's minds, the governor allays this: "We do hope that once and for all the Boac River will be given a clean bill of health. Restitution has been made for the people's loss of livelihood from 1996 to the present."

Lilles told me there were still residues of the mine tailings in the river but that nature had a way of washing these away to the open sea.

The province has one of the best coral reefs in the



RAW beauty on the beach at Gaspar Island (top); hot mineral water cascading down a manmade fall

'Capture a butterfly and whisper your wish to it. Then set it free and it will take your wish to the heavens'

country. Diving to look at Japanese wrecks and sunken galleons is another outdoor sport that can lure tourists. Mt. Malindig offers a climate as cool as Baguio for trekkers, mountain climbers and campers. There is a regular trail that can be followed and a Girl Scout campsite somewhere. Mountaineers from the University of the Philippines, Adamson and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. have been there.

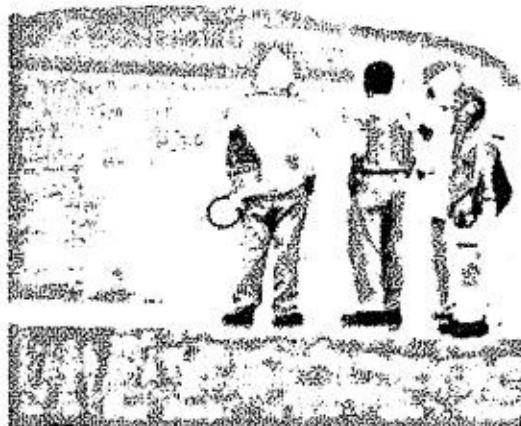
'Bibingka,' etc.

Pasalubong-wise, the province is starting to market its special vinegar and *bagoong* (the governor claims that the famous Balayan *bagoong* actually comes from her province). There is a special *bibingka* to be had.

Mita Reyes, wife of the provincial administrator, also mentioned the famous cookies made from the special flour from the arrowroot plant, a white tuber. This year not much was harvested because the plant is sensitive to the vagaries of the weather and prefers the sandy loam beneath coconut trees.

Her bakery supplied cookies to Aristocrat Restaurant but had to stop because of the unpredictable flour supply. The Design Center of the Philippines has helped her design a more attractive packaging for the edible products with pertinent information on the tuber and how it is turned into cookies.

Buntal place mats and coasters and *abaca* doormats are also available. The woodcarvers make mobiles of birds, butterflies and bees, consigning many of these to Villamin's Handicrafts in Poblacion Gasan across from the Gasan Complex and People's Restaurant.



TOO rainy to get into the swim of things

"Our handicrafts are similar to Quezon's, but ours is finer," the governor said. "We have the best bananas, according to a former agriculture secretary. They're the ones brought by the truckloads and jeepneys to Divisoria. On the return journey, the vehicles are loaded with junk food!"

She went on to muse: "Sometimes, I want to declare Marinduque as its own republic. When then President (Fidel) Ramos was faulting us for the mining disaster, I said, 'I beg your pardon. It's the national government that issued the environmental compliance certificate.'"

There was a plan to build a marina but the priests were against it, warning that it would bring in pedophiles and prostitutes. The peace and order situation remains stable; the place has been drug-free for two or three years. There are only eight cases pending at the Regional Trial Court. After 8 p.m. the streets are quiet. There are no bars.

In an experimental farm in mountainous Sibuyan, farmers are trying to grow their own carrots, cabbages and potatoes. The governor borrows the idle lands of the rich and turns them into model farms growing *papaya* to supplement the banana and copra industries.

Beginnings

Apart from Schroetter, European and Japanese retirees have settled in the province, some near the coast. James Hamilton Paterson, author of "Playing with Water," makes Marinduque his home part of the year.

Over our first taste of the local soup *ulang-ulang* (made of fresh-water shrimps and coconut strips), Bernie Jamilla, owner of the 12-room inn Tahanan sa Isok, looked back at how he and his wife ended up here.

Jamilla, a retired official of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, said they inherited a piece of land in Barangay Isok, Boac. Because they liked the bed-and-breakfast hotels in Europe where they lived for 27 years, they decided to build an inn three years ago to mainly cater to businessmen and visiting auditors of non-government organizations. In addition they built a two-bedroom house in Cawit, about 10 kilometers from the capital, for guests who want to go to the beach. The Jamillas' aim is to give "good, decent rooms to people who come here not just for tourism purposes."

The next day, Cruz and Ine Faustino, general manager of The Flight Shop Travel and Tours, sought to validate with us the "Sand, Sea and Spa" package they had developed overnight after hearing about and seeing Marinduque's possibilities.

From the governor's rest house in Gasan, we boarded a fishing boat, timing our boarding with the roll of the waves. We went around Gaspar Island (named after one of the Three Kings in the New Testament) and spotted a number of beach coves and legendary pirates' caves.

We got off at the eastern side in Sitio Gaspar, Barangay Pinggan (or plate, for the many precious Sung and Ching dynasty plates and jars that were found near here) with its population of 300 who live off their crops of watermelon, corn, squash, guava, *santol*, orange and *uppo*. Their drinking water comes from the main island.

A natural sandbar of crushed corals is found here. But Lilles warned of a treacherous undertow and told us not to swim in the waters at the end of the sandbar. Because the place has been declared a community marine reserve, such fish-catching techniques as *salibuhay*, *muro-ami* and using cyanide and dynamite are forbidden.

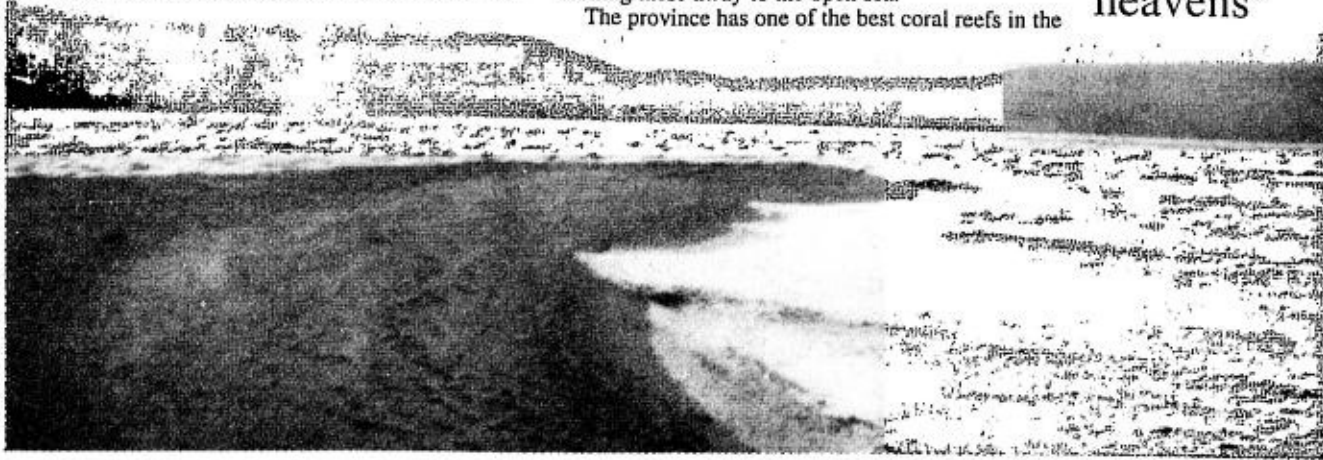
According to Ine, the P4,500 tour package will include a 10-percent discount from Asian Spirit, a land tour (visits to the brick-covered Boac Cathedral, the handicrafts store and the hanging bridge in Gasan), a boat ride to Gaspar and soaking in the hot mineral water pools of Susanna Hot Spring in the town of Buenavista.

The cost covers accommodations for two nights and three days with daily breakfast, round-trip air fare and airport transfers, whole-day tour and entrance fee to the spring.

Not far from this private spring operated by a man named Venus Sosa is the public Malbog Sulfur Spring. After taking in the pungent, rotten-egg aroma of sulfur, someone quipped (but in far more picturesque Filipino): "Your athlete's foot will be finished here."

While we soaked in the 42-degree hot spring, Cruz suggested we float flowers—santol and hibiscus—on the pool to make it look more like a nature's spa. The temperature can be adjusted to as high as 70 degrees, but 42 was just right for my aching back.

Let me close with my nighttime reading of Amis: "V.S. Naipaul, in his travel books, puts nation states on the psychiatrist's couch and then takes a reading of their mental health. All writers, all travelers, do something of the kind. After a couple of days your body gives you a verdict on the place you're in; and I felt invigorated—rejuvenated."



SANDBAR made of crushed corals

TRAVEL BRIEFS

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At Traders Hotel (on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City), locals, expatriates and *balikbayans* may stay in a superior/deluxe room for P2,900; Traders Club room, P4,800; executive suite, P5,000; or Traders Club suite, P6,000.

The special package is inclusive of buffet breakfast for two persons, use of the swimming pool, welcome drink for two, and free room on the third night. Two children at most can stay with parents at no extra charge.

The package is also inclusive of service charge and government taxes, and valid from Dec. 20 to Jan. 5.

Guests may also partake of the special Yuletide lunch and dinner at La Cucina Italiana at P600 per person with complimentary glass of wine and party favors for children.

Traders Hotel is managed by Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. For res-

ervations, call 523-7011 or 527-9107. For long-distance calls, dial the toll-free number 1-800-1-888-7666, or book on-line at www.shangri-la.com.

AT ASTORIA Plaza (on J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District), there are Holiday Suite packages featuring a one-bedroom suite for two adults and two children for P2,500++ and a two-bedroom suite for four adults for P3,900++.

There is also a New Year's Eve Suite Hangover Special at P2,000 net for a one-bedroom suite and P3,500 net for a two-bedroom suite. Amenities include breakfast, complimentary fruit basket, bottled water and late checkout.

Café Astoria is offering special meals such as the Holiday Sunday brunch on Dec. 16 and 23, dinner buffet on Dec. 24, lunch buffet on Dec. 25, and dinner buffet on New Year's Eve. A 30-percent discount awaits early-bird reservations.

The festivities also include tradi-

tional *bibingka* and *puto bumbong* (also available at Café Astoria) and caroling at the lobby by the Unang Hapbang Children's Choir (Dec. 16, 23 and 24). An art exhibit featuring Angono Painters is on view until Jan. 6. For inquiries, call 687-1111.

AT ISLAND Cove Resort and Leisure Park (in Binakayan, Kawit Cavite), check out the "Magical Holiday" room promo which offers a "free" gift certificate for an overnight stay if you stay for at least three consecutive nights or five accumulated room nights from December to January.

For diners, there's a "Holiday Feast" promo starting today until Jan. 6, which allows them to pick a gift if they consume at least P2,000 worth of food and drinks at the Fishing Village or the Island Grill and P1,500 at the Island Café.

Since Christmas is for kids, Santa Claus will be waiting for them at the hotel lobby 3-5 p.m. today and daily from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2.

Food lovers may savor Filipino delights such as *bibingka*, *puto bumbong*, *ensaymada*, *isokolate* and *salabat* at the "Paskong Pondahan" in front of the Sports Cove during weekends.

And on Dec. 22, the Freestyle band will perform at the Concert Park. A fashion show featuring Cavite's most talented designers is the highlight. Tickets are priced at P200. Show time is 7 p.m.

For inquiries, call the Makati sales office at 810-3740, 810-5351, 893-0747 or 810-3728, or Cavite at 810-3718, 810-3732 local 310 or 309. Or visit www.islandcovephil.com.

AT City Garden Hotel Makati (7870 Makati corner Kalyaan Avenue), you can check in with family and friends and enjoy the holidays with a rejuvenating massage at its Oliva Spa for a promo rate of P1,300 net per person.

Relatives visiting from abroad can also avail themselves of the hotel's "Balikbayan Treat" of only P900 net per person on a twin-sharing basis, valid

any day of the week until Jan. 31.

Patrons may also choose from Christmas party packages that include food, drinks, décor and use of entertainment facilities for as low as P550/ person.

The menus range from Fiesta Filipino, Western delights, fisherman's fare and Italian pasta specialties to assorted grills.

AT DISCOVERY Suites (on 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center) families are invited to check in for a two-night stay or a two-room overnight stay, in which case they will get a "Christmas 3" gift certificate for another night, to be redeemed any time.

Package rates begin at P5,400++ for two nights in a junior suite, Continental breakfast buffet for two, and other perks such as complimentary use of the health club and swimming pool and 20-percent discount vouchers from the Discovery Spa.

The Christmas 3 packages are valid

until Dec. 29. For inquiries, call 635-2222.

...And out of town

IF you're raring to leave town, join Causeway Tours' holiday adventure.

A grand tour of the Ilocos region's attractions and heritage sites is scheduled on Dec. 21-23. After Christmas Day, other tours are set for Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos and for the Cordilleras, including the Banaue rice terraces.

For details, call 853-8728.

AT LEGENDA Hotel (in Subic, Zambales), Le Café trains the spotlight on American cuisine and the Museum Restaurant offers traditional Peking duck on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Pastries and other goodies are available at the Lobby Lounge, where Santa Claus is giving away gifts to all children. There will be a grand countdown and fireworks on New Year's Eve. For reservations, call 732-9888.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

IFC invests \$22M in information technology park in the Philippines

THE INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp. (IFC) has signed an agreement with Filinvest Alabang Inc. (FAI) to provide a \$22-million loan to finance the development of Northgate CyberZone, an information technology park in the Philippines. This is IFC's first investment in an IT park.

Northgate CyberZone was accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority as a special economic zone in July 1999. It is part of the 244-hectare Filinvest Corporate City development, a burgeoning central business district in southern Metro Manila. Northgate CyberZone has been operational since December 2000 with two completed IT buildings and fully functioning Network

Operations Center.

IFC's debt financing comes amid economic uncertainties caused by a global downturn. "The loan reflects IFC's continuing confidence in the Philippine economy in general, and specifically, in this project," said Sergio Pimenta, IFC's country manager in the Philippines. "We believe that the IT park will provide macro benefits such as creating high-value jobs and sustaining the competitive edge of skilled Filipino workers."

"We are optimistic about the overall prospects of the IT industry in the Philippines," said Josephine Gotianun-Yap, executive vice president of FAI. "Northgate CyberZone's total IT environment, especially its oper-

ating infrastructure, puts us at the forefront in terms of addressing the needs of IT companies."

IFC's mission is to promote sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, helping to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. IFC finances private sector investments in the developing world, mobilizes capital in the international financial markets, and provides technical assistance and advice to governments and businesses. Since its founding in 1956, IFC has committed more than P31 billion of its own funds and arranged \$20 billion in syndication for 2,636 companies in 140 developing countries. IFC's committed portfolio at the end of FY01 was P14.3 billion.



PLDT ENGAGES NORTEL NETWORKS IN METRO FIBER OPTIC UPGRADE

Top officials of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and Nortel Networks Philippines recently signed a contract to optimize the existing Metro Manila fiber optic tandem trunking transmission network through the deployment of a high-performance DWDM (dense wavelength-division multiplexing) metropolitan optical solution utilizing Nortel Networks' OPTera Metro 5200 Optical Line System. Shown are (from left) Nortel Networks Philippines managing director Antonio Z. Pio de Roda, Nortel Networks vice president for Optical Internet Asia Pacific James Demers, PLDT senior vice president for network developing and provisioning George N. Lim, and PLDT procurement planner for company-wide contracts lawyer Douglas Alinea.



PMA GMM SPEAKER

Mike Barredo, sole proprietor of Bergen Insurance Agency and Bergen Enterprises was recently the speaker at the General Membership Meeting (GMM) of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA). Barredo shared his inspiring success story and his expertise in marketing and customer relations service. Although visually impaired, Barredo accomplished a seemingly impossible feat of rising in an organization and managing his own business. Shown is JJ Roces, PMA president, shaking hands with Mike while Bobby Dimayuga, PMA vice president for meetings and attendance, looks on.



FUN WITH MICROWAVING

The public was treated to a cooking demonstration at the Sharp Technology Hall showroom at the SM Megamall recently. Simple dishes demonstrated last weekend were macaroni and cheese and brownies. Harried housewives, live-alone bachelors and bachelorettes, and anyone who simply enjoys cooking with the microwave will surely pick up useful pointers at the Sharp demos which are held every Saturday and Sunday during mall operating hours. Auto-cook keys and convenient controls in Sharp microwave ovens make them ideal for busy homemakers. Walk-in observers may even get to taste the demo dishes. With over 80 million microwave ovens produced worldwide, Sharp proves to be the preferred brand and leads many markets in the United States, Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore. In the Philippines, Sharp makes available three models specifically designed for Asian cooking.



FAMILY FIRST'S GREENAMANIA WINNER KNOWN

Family First Inc. (FFI), exclusive marketing agent of Berkley International Philippines Inc. (BPI) which now ranks second in the educational plan sector in terms of new business, recently concluded its Greenamania promotion. Greenamania was undertaken as part of the fourth anniversary celebration of Family First. Under the promo, which ran from Aug. 1 to Dec. 1, mall shoppers wearing green—the official color of Family First—were eligible to join the raffle. The grand prize winner, Monette Jadear of South City Homes, Biñan, Laguna, won a trip to Boracay for two, while 15 others won a Premiere 651 camera and 20 others received a P500 gift certificate at Chili's. To date, FFI has given away P102 million in gifts and prizes. Present during the grand raffle draw were (from left) FFI marketing development officer Claudine Pacheco, Department of Trade and Industry sales and promotions head Gertrudes Perez and FFI marketing manager Tzarina Saldaña.



MOA SIGNING

Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) and Bonifacio Estate Services Corp. (BESC) recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Clean & Green Foundation to host the annual Pasig River Heritage Marathon, which is scheduled every last Sunday of February. Shown are former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos, Ricardo Pascua, president and CEO of FBDC, Amelita Ramos, chair of the Clean & Green Foundation, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga and Della Josef, division manager of BESC. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo joined the press run after the signing.

Second Civic showroom display contest exhibits Honda technology

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. recently announced the winners of the second Civic Showroom display contest participated in by 16 of its dealerships nationwide. In the successful display run since last July 15, Honda dealerships decorated their showrooms according to the theme, "Honda: Technology is our edge", highlighting the winning features of the Civic. Among the criteria for the winning displays include the overall presentation, originality and creativity. The contest was judged by the officers and managers of HCPI led by its president, Kenji Otaka; Hideki Kamiyama, assistant vice president for market research and product planning, and Gabby Peren, AVP for vehicle sales and business development.

Honda Cars Manila (HCMA) bagged the first place with its display titled, "A Masterpiece of Ingenuity".

HCMA's winning display fashioned in the form of an art gallery features the new Civic, and the 7th generation Civic as a masterpiece. The display included a series of art frames exhibiting the innovative technology of the VTEC 3 engine, its suspension, safety and interior/exterior features, which sets the Civic apart from competition.

The second place went to Honda Cars Kalookan Inc. with their "VTECnology" entry, while Honda Cars Alabang was in third place with its display titled, "Honda the Car of the New Generation".

Honda Cars Philippines extends its appreciation to its clients for their participation and creativity resulting in the success of the second Civic Showroom Display Contest.



CUSTOMIZE YOUR CELLPHONE AT GTC

Makati cellphone owners can now avail of customization work without having to go across town. Greenbelt Telecoms Center now offers several shops where custom housings, backlights and quick repairs are offered. All works are guaranteed and performed by trained and qualified technicians with proper identification cards. GTC clients can drop off their phones to be worked on and confidently grab a snack, watch a movie or concert in Greenbelt Mall and be confident that their phone will be ready right after the show. GTC, shown above, is located at the second level (cinema level) of Greenbelt Mall in Ayala Center.

2 promos at Family First 4th year

FAMILY FIRST Inc. (FFI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkley International Philippines Inc. (BIP), marks its 4th anniversary with 2 promo bonanzas called "Reach for Your Dreams III" and "Libreng Bahay, Bagong Buhay." The two promos are FFI's way of thanking the Filipino people for catapulting Berkley to its enviable position as No. 2 in educational plans and No. 4 overall in the pre-need industry in terms of new business. Berkley has also just been given a "PRS A plus" rating by the Philippine Rating Services Corp. PRS A plus means "the company has an above-average capacity to meet its financial commitments relative to that of other Philippine corporations." "Reach for Your Dreams III" will run up to June 30, 2002. "Libreng Bahay, Bagong Buhay" promo's deadline for dropping of entries is on Dec. 22. For inquiries, call 755-1511 or 755-1535.

PYM on stage

THE PARISH Youth Ministry of St. Paul of the Cross Parish will be having a musical play on Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. to be held at St. Paul of the Cross Parish, SSS Village, Marikina City. "Araw ng Pasko" is written and directed by Jan Ahn-el Pura. The story shows the real values among Filipino people during Christmas. This has been organized and played by young talented people who come from different religious groups under St. Paul Parish.

Religious convention in Laguna

ABOUT 4,000 delegates from selected places in Metro Manila and, in Cavite will attend the three-day annual District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses to be held at the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Barangay San Francisco, Victoria, Laguna from Dec. 28 to 30. The theme of the convention is "Teachers of God's Word." The main highlight of the event will be a public discourse on Sunday, Dec. 30 at 1:50 p.m. It is entitled "Who Are Teaching All Nations the Truth?" which will be delivered by Delfin R. Junatas, a traveling representative of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Philippine branch.

Special deals from Avid

AVID SALES Corp. is offering special deals on Sony Handycam and Sony Wega TV sets through the "Zero-Interest Deals" and "Zero-Three Deals" promos which end Dec. 31. Shoppers using BPI Express Credit Mastercard, Metrobank, Unicard, Equitable Visa and Mastercard, Citibank, AIG and RCBC JCB cards get zero interest on selected Sony Handycam models. Terms of payment range from three months to one year. In the "Zero-Three Deals", shoppers using BPI Express Credit (Mastercard), Metrobank, Unicard, Equitable (Visa and Mastercard), Citibank, AIG and RCBC JCB cards pay 0 interest for three equal monthly payments on selected Sony Wega TV sets. Avid Sales Corp. is an electronics retail chain with 15 branches in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu. For more information, call 525-3517.

Share the good news and shop

SHARING the good news with your colleagues, friends and family has never been this profitable—as Diner's Club, the world's first credit card, announces its Member-Get-Member (MGM) program. Invite prospective cardholders to experience the unique features and superior benefits that you, along with all other Diners Clubmembers enjoy, and be rewarded with cash credits on your active and current Diner's Club Card. From now until Dec. 31, simply introduce your friends and family to Diners Club and earn cash credits for every approved primary card referral you make. Earn P500 for every approved Diners Club International Card application and P1,250 for every approved Diners Club Premier Card application. Have your friends fill out MGM application forms with your name on the Referrer's Box, and send it to Security International Card Center, 114 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. For inquiries, call the customer service at 88-791-88 or toll-free at 1-800-1-888-8846.



FILIPINO WINS SIA'S ON-LINE CONTEST

Angela Teresa Arbatin (middle) receives a pair of Raffles Class tickets to any Singapore Airlines destination for being one of the three winners of SIA's recently concluded Chicago: Home of the Blues Online contest. Arbatin beat 356,900 other e-card senders from various countries. Also shown are SIA's Manila station manager Andrew Tan and SIA sales officer Jaclyn Lutanco. The other two winners were from Kuala Lumpur and Great Britain.



SAMSONITE-PAL TIE-UP

Samsonite, the world's leading luggage specialist and Philippine Airlines (PAL), the nation's flag carrier, recently forged a tie-up that promises to provide consumers with better value for their money. From now until May 31, 2002, every minimum purchase of P5,000 worth of Samsonite products entitles PALsmiles and Mabuhay Club members 500 credit miles. Every succeeding P1,000 purchase will entitle the customer to an additional 100 points. Non-members automatically get free membership for every P5,000 purchase. Marked down items, special discounts and other promotional efforts of Samsonite are not included in this program. This promo is valid only for Samsonite products purchased at the Metro Manila outlets of the following stores: Duty Free Philippines, SM Department Stores, The Landmark, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila and at The Travel Club outlets located at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Shown during the memorandum of agreement signing were (from left) Samsonite general manager Susan Thai, Mabuhay Club/PALsmiles program center and product research development manager Joy Pasillao and Samsonite marketing executive Arlene Thay.

Sunday **BIZ**

Local woodcarvers carve new niche in the twilight

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A giant Igorot warrior is being born in Asin village here, delivered by two Ifugao woodcarvers from a century-old acacia tree.

Their rhythmic chisel blows are summoning good fortune in the village but theirs is the only sound you can hear now.

It is no longer like it was 20 years ago when chisel and ax blows and the whirring of chainsaws were as common as cricket shrills. The dust here used to

be sawdust and wood shavings.

Now, the Department of Trade and Industry calls the local woodcarving industry a "sunset industry."

"Blame it on the Abu Sayyaf," says Emilia Nauyac Barucca, co-owner of the Ifugao Handicrafts in Asin.

Nauyac measures her business performance on how fast she goes through her receipt booklets. She said in the 1980s, they always ran out of receipts.

But since summer of 2000, when Abu Sayyaf bandits started kidnapping foreign tourists, business had been bad. She has not even finished half of her re-

ceipt booklet.

Most customers of curio shops in Baguio City are local and foreign tourists who buy on the spot. Since local tourist figures have dropped, sales are also down.

For Ifugao Handicrafts, the biggest here, earnings during this slump are only about P5,000 to P15,000 a month.

Not giving up

But the industry is not about to give up.

Barucca and others in the business have found new ways of carving a niche for the industry.

Her father, Reynaldo Lopez Nauyac, was among the first migrants from Hapao, Ifugao, to settle in Asin in the 1950s. The Ifugao Handicrafts was the first of about 50 woodcarving shops that were set up here.

Barucca said competition among the shops has also contributed to the demise of woodcarving in the city.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, the biggest sellers were the souvenir items like the giant wooden spoon and fork, dragon and carabao stools, the half-face portraits and the shield and spear, Barucca said.

In the 1980s, woodcarvings shifted to Eastern designs like the Buddha figures and Chinese dancers. Animals and Christian items like crucifixes and statuettes of the Virgin Mary were the rage in the 1990s.

Orders for giant wooden statues, which have become the totem poles of some Filipino restaurant chains, also prop up now and then.

The particular Igorot warrior being carved in Barucca's shop will sell for P60,000 but half of it will go to materials and labor and P10,000 will go to trucking.

Foreign contractors from the United States, Turkey and Japan also come with their own designs but this happens only once a year.

Very creative

To survive in the 21st century, you need to have more than powerful hand carving arms, said Barucca.

"Now, we have to be very creative to cope," she said. "Souvenirs are no longer selling in these lean times because they are no longer practical."

She said they are using driftwood and stumps as materials for furniture. The *retazo* or the softwood used for packing crates is being recycled and so are old narra and pinewood taken from old houses and buildings.

The shop is currently producing living room chairs and sofas made of driftwood and twigs. Barucca said a Japanese contractor is thinking of exporting this to his country.

The large but contorted fruit tree trunks are turned into church altars with the Last Supper carved on the side. Churches and chapels all over the country and in Malaysia have been regularly buying these for as low as P15,000.

Also to save on cost, shops here contract their services to the Ifugao and even Ilocano families living here instead of hiring their own workers.

Adding to their woes is the increasing scarcity of wood.

In Baguio City, *kamagong*, *almaciga* and other wood come from Ifugao and La Union.

A Norwegian exporter is bringing in processed wood called the "modified-density fiber" from New Zealand and Australia.

The exporter will also bring in his own woodcraft paints and lacquers from Norway to ensure that the products would adapt to the cold Scandinavian climate.

But otherwise, trees cannot outpace the needs of woodcarving.

"The skill is still there but the trees are not," Armando Galimba, DTI Cordillera executive director, said.

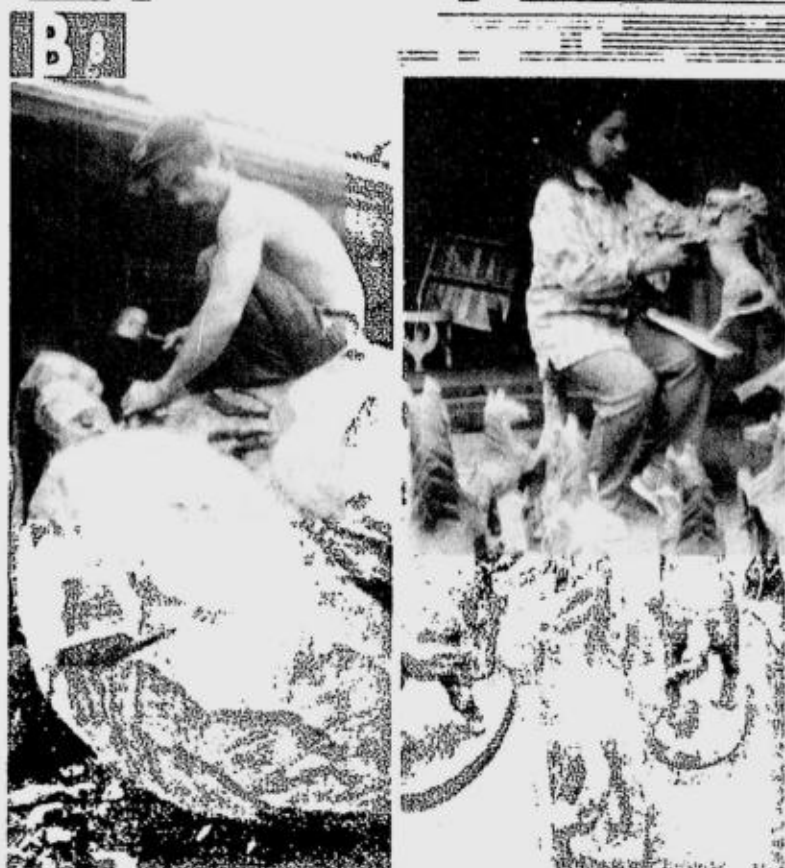
He said gemelina, a fast-growing leguminous tree, is a good substitute.

Bamboo is also becoming a common material for whittling. Barucca has made a prototype of rainsticks made of bamboo.

According to DTI, bamboo is available mostly from Abra with an estimated volume of 100,280 linear meters.

Galimba also recommended incorporating clay, metal, loom weaving and textile to the woodcarvings.

He also said the trend is on smaller functional items since large items demand large trees.



BUSINESS has been bad for Ifugao woodcarvers since last year. But all is not lost.

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Subscribers Development Manager

Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.

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Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.

Planning and Research Development Officers

Graduate of Management/Economics, or any related course. With adept knowledge in research and data analysis. Must have at least 5 years work experience in planning and research. Willing to work long hours with minimum supervision. Male/Female, 25-35 years old.

System Integration Assistant

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication or Business Administration. With at least 4 years work experience and must be adept in office procedures and administration. Proficient in Windows/Microsoft applications and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Female, 25-30 years old.

Marketing Assistant

Graduate of Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Communication. Proficient in oral and written communication. With relevant work experience. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

Corporate Presentors

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication. Excellent in oral and written communication with relevant work experience. Good in Public Speaking. Computer literate, flexible, and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned to do field works. Male/Female 21-35 years old.

Training Officers/Trainers

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication, Education or any Business course. Excellent in oral and written communication. Good in Public Speaking. Highly computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila, provincial and/or depressed areas. Male/Female, 21-30 years old.

Business Coordinators

Graduate of any business course with 3-5 years sales and marketing experience. Proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to do field works. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

Customer Relations Staff

Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course. Preferably with relevant work experience in customer service and handling customer concerns. Must be computer literate and proficient in oral and written communication. Male/Female, 21-28 years old.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Programmers/Systems Analysts

Graduate of Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Electronics and Communications Engineering. With at least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications - SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA, ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, or Windows Operating System (1998 NT/2000 Professional); knowledge in Database Administration and Computer Programming a major plus. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

Web Developers

Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering. With at least 2-3 years extensive experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, HS, BV Script; Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/ UltraDev. Preferably with strong knowledge in HTML and Java Script. Hard coding as well as Cross-Browser Development. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounting Assistants/Accounts Receivable Clerk/Credit and Collection Clerk

Graduate of Accountancy with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Highly-computer literate. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Willing to render overtime.

Administrative Assistant

Graduate of any four-year course with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Must be smart, assertive and organized. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Highly-computer literate with good typing skills.

PUBLICATION

Editorial Staff/Copywriter

Graduates of Journalism/Mass Communication/Communication Arts or any related course. Must be creative, with excellent writing skills, detail-oriented, resourceful and computer literate. Preferably with background in business administration and with relative work experience in publication. Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.

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Technical Assistant

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- ☑ With excellent independent judgment and training capabilities;
- ☑ Competent in planning, organizing, staffing, directing, controlling, recording and budgeting;
- ☑ With perseverance and impeccable honesty and integrity.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with latest 2x2 photo not later than Thursday, 10 January 2002 to:

The Human Resource Head
 Koryo Subic, Inc.
 Bldg. 8095 Boton Wharf, Cubi Point
 Subic Bay Freeport Zone
 Olongapo City, Philippines 2200

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"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart
 and my soul. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I breathe
 forth my spirit to you."

ANGELITA MOSSESGELD CRISOSTOMO

Joined her Creator and Saviour on December 14, 2001
 at the age of 85, after having lived a full and virtuous life.
 She and her departed husband, **DR. JESUS D. CRISOSTOMO**
 are now reunited in heavenly bliss.

Her bereaved children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren--

- **TEDDY & CHARITO, Gigi & Gig Gonzalez, Tinton, Raphael, Marella and Gaby**
- **ANA MARIE & NONOY AGDEPPA, Love, Trudy and Tatin**
- **CHIT CRISOSTOMO-ARNALDO, Melise & Vince Tagle, Agnes & Liel Cordoba, George & Michelle, Patrick**
- **BOB & CORA, Jaye & Roy Messengale, Kay and Lyn, Alexis and Dylan**
- **NITTOY & DITAS, Paolo & Reggie, Niño and Ulysses, Francesca**
- **BENG & NICK VALDEZ, Monica**

-- sisters **CONCHITA M. AVELINO** and **LYDIA M. RAMOS**
 and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for
 the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Capitol Memorial Chapels, Corner
 Araneta Avenue and Quezon Boulevard.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 19, 2001 at the Loyola
 Memorial Park, Marikina after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Santa
 Maria Della Strada Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

ATTY. JOSE L. LAPAK

of Daet, Capalonga and Tulsay
 Camarines Norte

Past Grand Knight, Incumbent Faithful
 Navigator - Knights of Columbus
 Past President, Rotary Club of Daet District 3280
 Past President, Integrated Bar of the Phils. -
 Camarines Norte Chapter
 Counsel, Diocese of Daet
 Former Legal Counsel - Province of Camarines Norte
 Past President, Citizens Legal Aid Society of the
 Phils. - Camarines Norte Chapter

Who joined his Creator on December 11, 2001 at 79 years of age.

His loving wife Dolores; children and in-laws Jose Jr., and Eleanor, Emmanuel and
 Nieves, Angeles and Evelyn, Isabelita and Jacinto, Ramon and Milagros, Regente and
 Sally, Marie Francis and Jessie, Julia Socorro and Jojo; grandchildren and great
 grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani Church in Alabang, Muntinlupa City and
 will be transferred in Daet Camarines Norte tentatively on December 17, 2001.

Interment at the family mausoleum at Daet Cemetery will be announced later.

MILAGROS AVANCEÑA TECSON

of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

Died on December 14, 2001 at the age of 72.

Her loving children Boy & Chol, Myrna & Elmo, Marlene & Jojo, Marlon
 & Maryanne, Merlin & Herly, Marvin & Jean; grandchildren, brothers and
 sisters, other relatives and friends request everyone to pray for the eternal repose
 of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A-2 of La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue,
 Quezon City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park on a date to be announced.

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Eye has not seen, ear
 has not heard, nor
 has it so much as
 dawned on man what God
 has prepared for those who
 love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

TEOFILO "PIO" L. LIM

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 11, 2001 at the age of 88,
 in Cerritos, Los Angeles, California, USA.

His bereaved wife Amparo Parayno; children Priscilla and Ben Dimapilis, Estrella and
 Giles Maravilla, Armi and Freddie Felix, Connie, Isagani and Sol Lim; grandchildren
 Christopher, Jennifer, Christine, Charisse, Karsten, Christian, Angela, and Patrick.
 His brothers and sister, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose
 of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the State Forest Lawn Cypress Home. Vigil and Rosary at the
 Holy Trinity Church in Artesia California. Mass at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 15, 2001.

Transportation to the Philippines accompanied by his entire family on December 19. His
 remains will lie in state in the family residence at Herrero St., Dagupan City on December 20,
 2001. Funeral Services after Mass on Saturday, December 22, 2001 will be at the Eternal
 Gardens Cemetery, Dagupan City.

En Memoria

del
 Segundo Aniversario De la Muerte Del

Sr. D. Luis "CHIKUITO" Romero-Salas y Morro

17 de Diciembre de 1999

Se celebraran misas de recordatorio en las siguientes Iglesias:

Manila - 17 Diciembre
SANCTUARIO de SAN ANTONIO 12:15 MD
 Forbes Park, Makati City
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY de LIGUORI 7:15 AM
 Magallanes, Makati City
OUR LADY OF BEAUTIFUL LOVE 6:00 PM
 Merville Park, Parañaque, MM

Cebu City - 17 Diciembre
SACRED HEART CHURCH 6:00 AM
SACRED HEART PARISH 6:00 AM
ASILO de la MILAGROSA 6:00 AM
REDEMPTORIST CHURCH 7:00 AM

Cebu City - 15 Diciembre
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB 6:00 PM

Davao City - 17 Diciembre
ASSUMPTION CHURCH 5:45 PM

Bacolod City - 17 Diciembre
REDEMPTORIST CHURCH 5:30 PM

Se ruega al piadoso lector una oracion por el eterno reposo
 del alma del difunto.

FELIX VILLANUEVA EUSEBIO

Los Baños, Laguna
 September 20, 1928 - December 13, 2001

He is lovingly remembered by his wife Lydia Agpoon Eusebio,
 his children Connie & Edd Magboo, Nora and Rey Santos,
 Chl & Arnold Lopez, Elvie & Ato Dumayas, Joy & Dennis
 Eusebio, Coring & Tonle Balangue, Ike & Ycel Eusebio,
 Darwin & Malou Eusebio, Glenn & Marie Eusebio; his
 grandchildren Laarni, Val, John & Lizza; Anne, Walther &
 Rex; Candice, Jay, Kim & Tracy; Rendell, Erik & Allan;
 Dondee, Cheng & Randee; Krizia, Vyjay & Zeynna; Myko &
 Anvin; Julius; Isalah; his great grandchildren Deedan, Deecce,
 Dakota & Taylor, his brothers and sister Quirino Eusebio,
 Doring Eusebio and Betty Siapno.

His remains lie in state at 9209 Batong Malaki Street,
 Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 22, 2001 after the 8:00
 a.m. Holy Mass at the San Antonio de Padua Parish Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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 Arellano St., Dagupan City
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ① Copy of Death Certificate ② Any Identification document (I.D.)

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Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord

In Loving Memory of the
Third Death Anniversary of

**ALEJANDRA (ANDIE)
ALMARIO DUNGAN**

who joined the Good Lord and her Creator
on December 16, 1998

Her husband Noel; daughter Ana Christina (Chrisna); and
son Leandro Paulo (Len) would like their relatives and
friends to remember her in their prayers.

**CONCEPCION
PONFERRADA TIU, M.D.**

Born December 2, 1942, Barugo, Leyte
Died in the Grace of our Lord

on December 7, 2001, Chicago, Illinois

Her bereaved aunt Merced; partner Roland; sisters, brothers
and in-laws Nellie, Tony and Helen, Yope, Lelo and Chuck,
Pepe and Gloria, Junior and Delia, Charito and Babie;
nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends
request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be flown from Chicago and will lie in state at
the family residence in Barugo, Leyte. Interment will be at the
Barugo Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, December 22, 2001.

Tiu Residence, Barugo, Leyte, telephone 053-3314090.

NICANOR B. AGUDO

Peacefully joined his Creator on 15 December 2001.

His sisters **Hortensia A. Sobreviñas**, **Emilia B. Agudo**; nephews
Joel Agudo and **Bing Suguitan** and wife **Vency**; niece **Dolly
Suguitan**; and other nephews, nieces and grandchildren mourn his
passing and wish him eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori
Church, Chapel 4, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Cremation will be at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium,
Guadalupe, Makati immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on
Wednesday, 19 December, at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori
Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise
us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

*"Eternal life will swallow up that
which can die. God made us for
this very reason and He has given
us the Spirit as a guarantee
that we will live again."*

2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it
doesn't mean the end of a journey; it
marks a new beginning of eternal
peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep
in our hearts, we carry our loved-
ones' memories to a special tomorrow
when we will be united again... one
at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

OBITUARIES

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NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR STATEMENTS OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) invites real estate developers, investors, resort firms, investment bankers, and other knowledgeable and well-capitalized property interests to submit offers to help develop sites within Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Several sites that are suitable for tourism are now being offered under the SBMA's Pro-active Land Marketing Program.

The following properties will be offered under a long-term lease and development to qualified developer-proponents with the most advantageous proposals:

Property	Project Site	Area (m ²) approx.
A. Ilanin II	Camayan Point Resort	17,000
B. Ilanin IV	Hidden Beach Resort	80,000
C. Ilanin V	Grande Island Tourism Recreation Site	450,000
D. Ilanin VII	Commercial Recreation attraction area	TBD

Pre-qualification Application and Information packets for each property will be available for issuance starting **December 10, 2001** at: (a) SBMA Planning and Development Office (PDO), Rm. 108, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, ☎ (047) 252-4097/4053 upon payment of Two Hundred Pesos (Php 200.00) which is non-refundable.

Last day of submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Application and other supporting documents is on **January 11, 2002, not later than 5:00 PM.**

SBMA is seeking qualified investors for these unique properties. Only the most environmentally-responsible should seek the rights to develop the "Ilanin" tourism properties.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and to accept real estate developers whose proposals is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2001)



Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue,
Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 • 7221158 • Email: info@poea.org.ph
Website: www.poea.org.ph

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. 013-01
Series of 2001

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is inviting all interested contractors to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for:

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE-STOP PROCESSING CENTER BUILDING A & B

The approved budget for the contract works to quote is P1,500,000.00.

Submission of eligibility requirements will be on or before **December 19, 2001**.

Pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **Wednesday, December 19, 2001, 2:30 p.m.** at the Conference Room of the undersigned, 5th Floor, POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue, corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

Bid Forms shall be furnished by the POEA - Bids and Awards Committee through the General Services and Property Division (GSPD) at the 5th Floor, POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue, corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) only.

Sealed bids shall be received by the POEA - Bids and Awards Committee starting 8:00 a.m. but not later than 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, December 21, 2001** and immediately thereafter the sealed envelopes will be opened. Bids must be accompanied with a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price either in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Surety Bond callable on demand issued by the GSIS or any insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commissioner, or a combination thereof. Bidder's bond shall be valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days following the opening of bids.

The POEA neither assumes any obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The POEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities or defects therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the POEA. All awards by the Bids and Awards Committee are subject to the final approval of the POEA Administrator.

(Sgd.) **LORNA O. FAJARDO**
Deputy Administrator, and
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Dec. 16 & 18, 2001)



Office of the Provincial Governor
Basco, Batanes

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: November 17, 2001
World Bank Loan No.: 4448 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Construction of School Buildings. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits.

2. The Province of Batanes thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the following projects:

- Package I - Renovation of Gabaldon Building and Completion of Two-Storey T.H.E. Building
Batanes National High School, Basco, Batanes;
Renovation of Auditorium/Shop Building
Batanes Polytechnic College, Basco, Batanes;
- Package II - Renovation of Classroom Building
Sabtang National School of Fisheries, Sabtang, Batanes;
- Package III - Renovation of Two-Storey Classroom Building
Mahatao National High School, Mahatao, Batanes;
Construction and Completion of 2-units Two-Storey Classroom Building
Ivana National High School, Ivana, Batanes;
- Package IV - Renovation of Classroom Building and Completion of Shop Building
Batanes General Comprehensive High School, Uyugan, Batanes;
- Package V - Rehabilitation and Expansion of PCCC Building
Ibayat National Agricultural High School, Ibayat, Batanes.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Office of the Governor, Province of Batanes, starting December 17, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of:

- Package I - Two Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Pesos (P226,000.00);
- Package II - Sixty-Four Thousand One Hundred Pesos (P64,100.00);
- Package III - One Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P160,000.00);
- Package IV - One Hundred Twelve Thousand Pesos (P112,000.00);
- Package V - Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P219,500.00);

In a form of cash, cashier's check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Human Resources Training Center, Provincial Capitol, Basco, Batanes on or before 2:00 p.m. January 17, 2002, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m., January 10, 2002 at the Human Resources Training Center, Provincial Capitol, Basco, Batanes.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE S. GATO**
Provincial Governor

(PDI--Dec. 16, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is notified that **ROMAN "ROY" L. MAURICIO** whose picture appears above and whose last known address is Sullera Street, Pandaya, Meycauayan, Bulacan has been issued Warrant of Arrest under Criminal Case Nos. 9284 to 85 under MTC of Marilao.

Anybody who could give information may call (044) 711-2895 to 98.

(PDI -- Dec. 16, 2001)



MAKE IT PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Pre-qualification Bid and Award Committee on Information Technology Resources (PBAC-ITR), of the Department of Trade and Industry, invites prospective bidders to qualify and bid for the following requirements:

- 1. GTEB - 26 units Computer, Intel Pentium III
- 2. CITEM - 1 unit Multimedia PC, Intel Pentium III
1 unit Multimedia Notebook, Intel Pentium III
1 unit PC-Server, Intel Pentium III
1 unit LCD Projector
- 3. HRDS - 1 unit Computer, Intel Pentium III
- 4. MIS - 1 Repair of DTI Network Fiber Optic Backbone

Document can be secured from Mr. Celso R. Aguilar, Secretary, DTI-PBAC-ITR, General Services Division, Ground Floor, Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Pre-bidding Conference will be held on **December 18, 2001, 2:00 PM** at 5th Floor MIS Conference Room, DTI Building.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) **JESUS L. MOTOMULL**
Chairman, DTI-PBAC-ITR

(PDI -- Dec. 16, 2001)

Negros Navigation Co., Inc.

Invites interested parties for the bidding of the following items:

- 1.) Motorcycle (brand new) - HD III 125 cc
- 2.) Power Engines 5 hp & 6 hp
- 3.) Other Items - The list can be secured to the Disposal Committee.

INFORMATION

- 1.) All bids shall be accompanied with Cash or Cash equivalent such as Cashier's or Manager's check in the amount of at least 10% of the minimum bid price representing deposit.
- 2.) Sealed bids can be submitted on or before the date of the bidding proper scheduled to be held on **December 20, 2001** at exactly 10:00 AM.
- 3.) Balance payable immediately upon notice.
- 4.) Any winning bidder who does not push through for reasons beyond its control, the deposit will be forfeited in favor of the company.
- 5.) The management reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in its discretion for any reason whatsoever.

Interested parties please contact **Mr. Juanito A. Tiu Jr.** at tel. no. 245-55-88 local 3008/3009 or address to:

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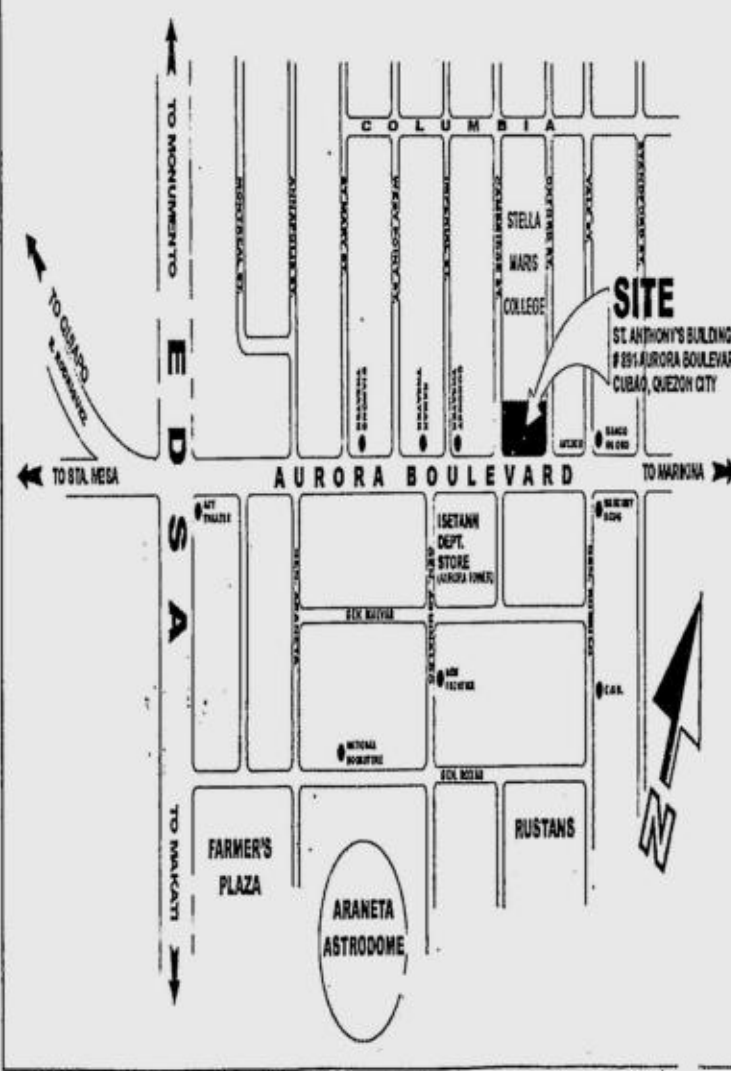
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SundayLIVES

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Eager dad Martin Nievera graces school Christmas show

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA



BRENT Int'l School's annual Christmas pageant featured a story of humble beginnings, the story of the first day of Christmas. It was a heart-warming show of Christmas songs by the lower school students in festive holiday attire. "Angels" sang, and little drummer boys and girls marched to the beat.



The main feature was the musical "A Star is Born." A concerted effort among students and teachers, it was a play, according to the lower school headmaster who introduced it, that would make the audience feel that Christmas was just around

the corner. He began the program by thanking everyone involved, but most especially "the lower school parent who helped us in this production. I am sure you'll know him when you see him."

But this introduction was not enough when the parent he was talking about came on stage. Martin Nievera, father to Robin and Ram Nievera, students both at Brent, awed the audience with a song that talked about the beauty and joy of Christmas.

And like a true cast member, Nievera was all smiles during curtain call (see page C3). The proud look on his face definitely meant it was more than a good show for him. It was for the love of Ram, who was also part of the pageant and who "volunteered" his famous dad for the role because they needed "some old guy who can sing." Now, what father could say no to that? Definitely not Martin Nievera.

Military smear job on Cardinal, GMA



THE RELIEVED commandant of the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) of UST widely believed to have been behind the killing of Mark Welson Chua has finally broken his silence. In a recent issue of the Varsitarian, Maj. Demy Tejares said he could not have masterminded the killing even if Chua's exposé on alleged ROTC anomalies during his time led to his ouster. He said that because of his relief, he did not have access to the campus where Chua was believed to have been abducted prior to his killing.

Tejares pointed to a number of cadet officers whom he had dismissed as a result of Chua's complaint as being behind the crime. He said the officers were reinstated by his replacement, Capt. Rodolfo Batang. Tejares added that it appeared Chua had been preparing another exposé before he was killed. True enough, the National Bureau of Investigation has named the cadet officers as principal suspects in the case.

Tejares said Batang and Col. Froilan Maglaya, ROTC head for the National Capital Region, were ganging up on him because he had protested questionable transactions in uniform procurement. He added that Batang and Maglaya did not provide Chua with security despite knowing that the victim had been receiving death threats.

Tejares added that he angered Maglaya when he refused to circulate through the ROTC cadets propaganda handbills smearing Jaime Cardinal Sin and then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the height of the illegal gambling payoffs scandal that eventually toppled President Joseph Estrada.

The bills showed cartoons of the cardinal and Gloria in compromising situations. In one bill, the cardinal was shown accepting gambling money from the devil on behalf of the poor of the Church. "Kahit pera ni Satanas tatanggapin ko," the prelate was saying in the inscription.

In another, Gloria is shown with Bong Pineda, reputed gambling lord from her home province of Pampanga. "Pag nakaupo na ako," she is telling Pineda while pointing at Pagcor, the state gambling agency, "ikaw ang papalit ryan."

Off-color spiel



FORMER beauty queen Miriam Quimbao made a surprising comment when she hosted the recent Araw Awards at the National Advertising Congress in Cebu City.

Dressed in an animal print frock in keeping with the "survival jungle" theme of the event, Miriam told a crowd of advertising executives in the posh ballroom of Waterfront Hotel: "Sa advertising daw, hindi uso ang love life kasi palagi kayong busy sa trabaho." But then she added, "Siguro maraming mga tigang sa inyo. (Maybe a lot of you are dried up.)"

We're not sure if the remark was still part of the spiel written on her cue card or the teleprompter. But for someone like Miriam, the line was rather unexpected. And to think it was even said on nationwide TV.

Arson hospital rates



PATRICK Talasik, the waiter who was injured in the fire that razed Republic of Malate recently, was confined for a few days at the Ospital ng Maynila.

He had to be operated on his wrist, since he used his hand to break a glass window to escape from the blaze.

Talasik's hospital expenses were shouldered by Kuh Ledesma, who owned the popular bar-

restaurant.

However, when Talasik was about to check out, Kuh was flabbergasted when she saw the bill. The hospital, which is supposedly subsidized by the government, charged her P40,000 for the surgery.

Kuh could have asked Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to intervene so the bill could be discounted. But she decided not to make a big fuss out of it.

She merely commented, "I thought it was a government hospital."

What if the poor Talasik didn't have the money or a benefactor like Kuh? He would have been

EAGER/p.C3



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Now, a personalized beauty program from BeautiControl

Tupperware salesforce put on the dress of success as they explore the benefits of BeautiControl, the company's newest beauty division that helps women be the best that they can be, from top to toe, inside and out.

BeautiControl, the world's premier skin care and image company, is here to let women enjoy a personalized beauty program through its scientifically advanced products and superior customer service.

The newest division of Tupperware Philippines, Inc., BeautiControl is set up as a personal beauty and image division. Just as Tupperware continues its pursuit of excellent and innovative products for table service, food storage, easy preparation, outdoor and travel, home organizers and children's line products for the home and lifestyle, BeautiControl is committed to helping each individual woman discover and celebrate her unique essence, and project a positive self-image through a personalized beauty program.

BeautiControl was founded by Jinger Heath, honored in 1999 as a "Leading Woman Entrepreneur of the World" and nominated as America's Influential Woman of the 21st Century. The author of *The Positively You! Discovery Journal*, Heath teaches women to let go of the negative forces holding them back from realizing their dreams. Through BeautiControl, she has inspired and empowered thousands of women to make positive choices, live their dreams and achieve lives of fulfillment.



Skin Sensors for scientifically accurate skin analysis.

scientifically and accurately in only five minutes or less.



From left: Leah Martinez, Marketing Assistant for BeautiControl; Mari S. Reyes, Assistant Product Manager for BeautiControl; Corito G. Singson, President and Managing Director of Tupperware Philippines, Inc.; Irma Palencia, Vice President for Marketing of Tupperware Philippines, Inc.; and Chay Salcedo, Assistant Product Manager for BeautiControl.

Based on the results of the Skin Sensors and the Skin Condition Questionnaire, your BeautiControl consultant will be able to determine immediately your real skin type and recommend the right skin care products that are perfect for you.

That's because BeautiControl believes that skin care is the essential first step towards total image enhancement. Like a car that needs constant care, your skin needs regular maintenance, repair and protection. And only BeautiControl has the three-tiered MRP approach to skin care: Maintenance, Repair and Prevention - the formula for total skin wellness.

It's not just another cosmetics company! It's more!

BeautiControl also enjoys the distinction of being a company that helps women be the best that they can be from top to toe, inside and out.

It offers the exclusive and patented Skin Sensors that help women analyze their skin

For maintenance, BeautiControl's customized Skinlogics system is designed to satisfy the requirements of nine skin conditions within the three basic skin types. Dermatologist, sensitivity and allergy tested, the Skinlogics system is designed to meet four skin care maintenance requirements such as Cleansing, Exfoliating, Toning and Moisturizing. Skinlogics meets these four skin care maintenance needs with its micro-balanced system of interchangeable skin care products scientifically formulated to work together.



Skinlogics system to satisfy the requirements of nine skin conditions within the three basic skin types.

To complement the customized skin care of Skinlogics, BeautiControl presents its exciting line of Color Cosmetics. Designed to create an illusion, Color Cosmetics can enhance or minimize certain features, and, when properly applied, can dramatically improve your appearance.



Lasting Lip Colors with Vitamins A, C & E improves lip moisture by 60%



Sheer Rain: Invigorating, fresh and cool fragrance

scented, let Sheer Rain invigorate your senses with the fresh scent of rain.

And who says you have to actually visit a spa to achieve beautiful skin? Thanks to BeautiControl, fabulous spa treatment for skin now comes in a bottle with its Spa Collection.

Inspired by the ancient healing, beautifying and rejuvenating minerals of the Dead Sea, BeautiControl's Spa Collection protects, nourishes, pampers and softens your skin and replenishes your inner balance. Its rich magnesium, sodium and potassium content makes the collection amazingly therapeutic. Furthermore, the Spa Collection also helps preserve skin's elasticity while providing temporary relief from skin disorders and rheumatic pains.



Spa Collection: Fabulous spa treatment in a bottle.

And now, women can enjoy the unique benefits of BeautiControl products with the recent opening of its first distributorship in Tuguegarao headed by one of Tupperware's former top performers, Jun and Ros Pua.

For those interested to become image consultants, image managers and prospective distributors, please call the BeautiControl hotline at 810-2023; check its website at BeautiControl.ph@tupperware.com, or visit 10/F Bankmer Bldg., 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

BeautiControl breakthroughs:

Watch out for these sensational new products!

BeautiControl celebrates the coming of the new year with the introduction of new and exciting products that promise to deliver superior benefits to women.



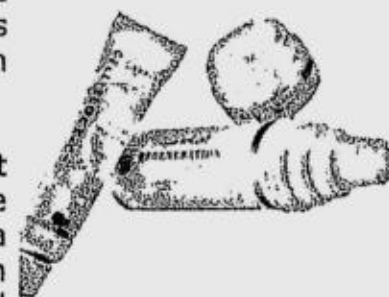
Lip Peel: Softer, smoother and younger-looking lips in an instant!

Minimize unattractive vertical lines and laugh lines around the lips with BeautiControl's Lip Peel, a unique duo of Line Peel and Lip Balm. Line Peel removes waxy lipstick buildup that causes uneven lipstick coverage and blemishes around the lips. Meanwhile, Lip Balm provides the ultimate protection against dehydration, leaving lips instantly softer, smoother and younger looking.

From youthful and supple lips, BeautiControl delivers the ultimate advancement in reversing the aging process with **Regeneration Gold**, the most effective and fastest-acting skin repairing product line in the market today. **Regeneration Gold** boosts collagen production in the skin and makes the new collagen thicker. The thicker the collagen, the fewer lines you'll see and the firmer the skin will be!

Regeneration Gold Skin Restructuring System combines the most effective alpha hydroxy acids with the emerging technology of tissue stimulation to help the body's own restorative powers reverse a lifetime of skin damage caused by genetics, sun exposure and other environmental factors.

Finally, BeautiControl ensures protection against premature aging with the new **Cell Block-C**. Soon to be available in the Philippines, **Cell Block-C** is a breakthrough daily prevention product that provides skin with unparalleled protection against damaging free radical and environmental aggressors. Think of **Cell Block-C** as a fortress that locks out the bad and safeguards the good: It's a knight in shining armor for your skin!



Cell Block C and Regeneration Gold: The most advanced protection against premature aging

Watch out for these breakthrough superior BeautiControl products exclusively available from your BeautiControl image consultant!

Eager dad Martin Nievera graces school Christmas show

(From page C1)

left heavily in debt after his hospitalization. Or did Ospital ng Maynila simply pad the bill because the administrators knew a big celebrity like Kuh was paying?

Traffic-beating mayor

BOYISH-LOOKING Navotas Mayor **Toby Tiango** has ingeniously thought of a way to dodge the mind-boggling Manila traffic, especially this Christmas. A stickler for promptness, he has assigned two men on motorcycles to roam city streets for faster routes.

For instance, if he has a luncheon meeting at the Manila Pen and he has to get back to the Navotas municipal hall for a 2 p.m. appointment, trust Mayor Toby to get there on time.

While the mayor is having lunch, the men on their bikes look for traffic-less roads that Mayor Toby could take. They then radio the route to his driver, who uses the information to navigate the roads.

Not such a lonely word

HONESTY is still alive. **Atom Heneres**, head honcho of NU-107 and UN TV, found this out for himself when he lost his Bulgari watch after a night of sousing and carousing at Venezia Bar and Restaurant. Arriving home at around dawn, he suddenly realized the wristwatch was gone.

Shaking off his stupor, he went back to the bar to look. He felt the world crash in on him when the guard at the entrance told him no such watch was found. But a bartender overheard them and told Atom that his colleague had found a watch and surrendered it to the cashier. True enough, the bar returned the watch to him.

The honest bartender's name is **John Asuncion**. May his tribe increase.

Free speech

'Fugitive' librarians air side
 WE write in response to the article "NCCA Board Rejects Laya Resignation; What Now?" published in the Nov. 4 issue of the INQUIRER.

1. "In a stunning decision, the board of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) rejected this week the resignation of **Jaime Laya** as chair."

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines stunning as "strikingly impressive especially in beauty or excellence." What is stunning in a 7-6 decision?

2. "Laya resigned because a Malacañang maneuver resulted in the NCCA board booting out **Virgilio Almarino** as executive director."

Let us straighten out our facts. Secretary **Victoria Gachitorena** of the Presidential Management Staff said Laya had offered to resign in a letter to the President dated Jan. 22, 2001. He even offered to help her choice get elected. His resignation was accepted by then Executive Secretary **Renato de Villa**.

3. "It is said that during the board meeting, **Adoracion Bolos** of the National Library brought out a sheaf of documents to prove that the library committee that voted Shahani as chair were not members of good standing. She showed that many of the fugitive members had pending court cases against them."

Who are the "fugitive" members? Again, Webster defines the term fugitive as "one who flees or tries to escape." Not one of us is fleeing or escaping. As proof, we are continuously fighting for what we believe in. Moreover, how could we be called "fugitives" when our committee was organized as early as April 1987 when the NCCA was still the Presidential Commission on Culture and the Arts created on Jan. 30, 1987 by Executive Order No. 118 under the Aquino administration.

4. "Shahani had been elected by the fugitive committee not as a librarian but as a 'library user,' whatever that means."

For your information, the term "library user" is defined in the American Library Association Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983) as a person who uses library materials or services. It is preferred to the term reader since library collections include materials that may be read, viewed or listened to, and to the term patron, which denotes library advocate or supporter.

The National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS) stands on its view that the NCCA is not a regulatory body for professions, but rather a catalyst for cultural development for the Filipino people. We elected Dr. Shahani unanimously as head of NCLIS for 2001-2004 for her accomplishments as an educator, legislator, diplomat, author and her keen interest in promoting libraries. The head of NCLIS need not be a librarian because it is not a professional association of librarians. It does not concern itself with librarians alone. It concerns itself with the triumvirate in the information world—information users, information providers and the information generators and creators (authors, publishers, etc.). Primarily, it was conceived as a group working for the improvement of libraries and information services in the country. Who should know more about information needs but the users of information themselves? So why limit the committee only to librarians?

Moreover, a cursory look at the composition of NCLIS in the United States of America and the United Kingdom will show that these are headed not by librarians but by persons known for their subject expertise and intellectual achievements. Some members of the commission are non-librarians as well.

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL M. COBARIA, LEONILA S. GALVEZ, NORA ALAJAR, SERAFIN D. QUIASON, IRENE D. AMORES, R. DANTE O. PEREZ and ROSA M. VALLEJO**

Editor's reply: Webster's likewise defines "stunning" as "causing astonishment, bewilderment." The NCCA board decision was "stunning" because it went against expectations that it would accept Laya's resignation—considering the number of Malacañang men on it and, as you maintain, the Palace's acceptance of his offer to resign as early as January. "Fugitive" also



STUDENTS of Brent Int'l School with Martin Nievera

means "vagabond" or "roaming," which perfectly describes your committee, after it was rejected by the NCCA board and the legitimate NCLIS headed by the chief librarians of De la Salle University and the University of the East. The case against Ms Shahani is not so much that she is a library user, but that she was elected the head of the committee without first qualifying for membership: she became a member and head of the library committee all on the same day. In contrast, other NCCA committees have standard membership rules. For example, in the literary arts committee, a writers group can qualify for mem-

bership only if it is at least 2 years old.

Disaster at Adidas

IT was tagged a "sample sale." Unfortunately, years of retail shopping experience did not prepare shoppers for the unpleasant experience at the recent Adidas sale.

What happened was that people who claimed to be Adidas employees jumped the snaking line to the sale and were allowed entry by the doorman, somebody named **Ferdie**.

Since Adidas did not post people to organize

the queue, an irate lady went to the exit door to call the attention of the people in the sales room. She was faced by **Ferdie** who glared and screamed at her. "What's your problem?" in broken English (and you didn't think it would be possible to murder such a short phrase). He then pushed and shoved the woman with hands as callused as his morals.

Adding insult to injury was a woman who introduced herself as "Mel from Adidas." She not only commended the doorman for doing a great job, but also had the gall to tell the disgruntled "invited" shoppers that she did not want to see their faces again.

This raised eyebrows among the patient shoppers who demanded their surnames. It did not come as a surprise when they refused to answer. They were both aware of their rude behavior and did not want to face the consequences.

It may help "Ferdie" and "Mel" to be reminded that the shoppers they mistreated actually pay their wages and should therefore be respected. If management does not rectify their behavior, they may just get their wish: Adidas will not see the faces of their shoppers again.

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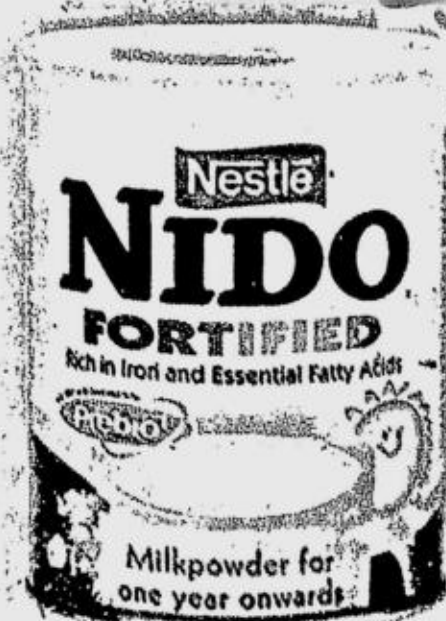
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THE ATENEO Boys Choir performs at the Captain's Bar Mandarin Oriental, Manila

Hotels' holiday treats

(From page C8)

and monkfish fillet while the Velvet Mood Trio serenades you.

On Dec. 16-24, melodies fill The Lobby Lounge as ESL Chorale goes caroling. Lunch buffet on Christmas and New Year's eve and brunch buffet on New Year feature salads, appetizers, desserts and a carving station with honey-glazed ham, fillet of beef Wellington

and roasted turkey. Real Groove and Limited Edition will have back-to-back concerts.

Breakfast buffet includes *puto bumbong*, *bibingka*, *taho* and Christmas ham at Garden Café. Lunch and dinner buffets boast of roast duck and turkey, ham, lamb or prime rib, fresh seafood and salads and desserts. Call 633-8888.

Century Park Hotel

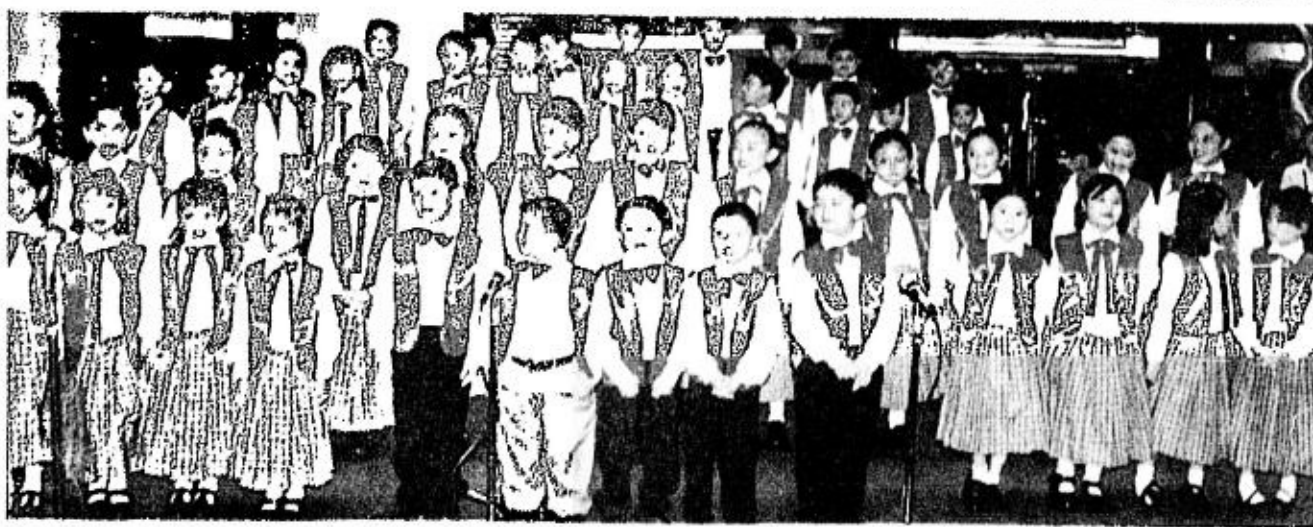
CELEBRATE the Yule season with treats like

ham, bacon, salami cuts, terrine, paté, ox tongue, *blawurst*, chicken jelly, dried beef, farmer's meatloaf, *fleiskaese*, ham jelly, Italian *mortadella*, jellied pork and turkey ham. For those who fancy sausages and *longganisas*, there's Basserdorfer, Schueblig, Bauer-schueblig, beef sausage, *cervelat*, *debrizener*, chili cheese or garlic sausage, beef, pork or chicken or liver *longanisa*.

Avoid the rush by buying Century Park Hotel's Christmas hampers, which contain bread, cheeses, cakes, cookies, souvenir items and cold cuts. You can also make your own hamper by filling it up with items of your choice, which are available at the Deli Snack. Call 528-5855 to -56.

Dusit Hotel Nikko

STUDENTS from different schools render



KOSTKA Children's Choir performs Christmas Carols at Dusit Hotel Nikko

Christmas classics at the main lobby until Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Expected to bring nightly cheer are Kostka QC, St. Paul Pasig, Colegio San Agustin, Maria Montessori Children's School Foundation Inc., Golden Values School, Immaculate Conception Parish School, German School, International School Manila, The British School Manila, Marymount Child Learning Center Parañaque, OB Montessori Center Greenhills, School of the Holy Spirit, Makati Montessori Educational Center Inc., San Sebastian College, Stella Maris College, Ateneo Grade School, Woodrose School Inc., Miriam College, The Musica Armonica Youth Ensemble and Angelicum College. Call 867-3333.

Manila Galleria Suites

MANILA Galleria Suites invites children to join the Christmas Card Making Contest, held every Saturday of the month. In its Christmas Caroling Competition, different groups will serenade you every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Atrium Plaza, 7 p.m. School choirs will also perform on Dec. 17, 19 and 21. A New Year's eve party countdown will be held on Dec. 31.

At Raphael Café-Restaurant, enjoy a buffet of international cuisine for P600+ per adult and P400+ per child. A special buffet for P1,000+ per adult and P500+ per child will be offered on Christmas and New Year. Native delicacies are served from 2-10 p.m. every day.

A Three Time Suiter package, which includes three-night stay in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast for 2 adults and 2 kids for P6,215+, is offered. There's also Suite Got Suiter with up to 40-percent off on executive suite rooms with buffet breakfast. All rooms get free tickets to Robinsons Movie World.

Those checked in until Dec. 30 may win free accommodations to the hotel and free round-trip tickets from Cebu Pacific.

Hotel Inter-Continental

HOTEL Inter-Continental Manila offers you a choice of 12 exciting packages to enjoy or to give away as gifts this holiday season until Jan. 6, 2002. Call 815-9711 local 373 to 377.

P1,000—family swimming day, one-day use of the swimming pool for two adults and two children; P2,700—overnight stay in a deluxe room; P3,000—overnight stay in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney plus two tickets to Enchanted Kingdom; P4,000—overnight stay in an executive room with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney; P5,000—overnight stay in an executive suite with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney; P6,000—two-night stay in an executive room with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney; P7,000—two-night stay in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast and buffet dinner for two at Café Jeepney; P8,000—two-night stay in a junior suite; P9,000—two-night stay in a junior suite with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney and one free round of standard drinks and pica-pica for two at Le Boulevardier; P10,000—special set dinner with family or friends (maximum of eight persons; exclusive of alcoholic beverages) at the Prince Albert Rotisserie; P11,000—two-night stay in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney plus overnight stay in a deluxe room at Holiday Inn Clark, inclusive of buffet breakfast for two and one round of golf (18 holes); P12,000—overnight stay in a state suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner for two buffet-style at Café Jeepney.

All packages are for local residents only. Quoted rates are subject to 10.5-percent VAT and local tax and 10-percent service charge. Transfers to and from Holiday Inn Clark not included.

Bayview Park Hotel Manila

BAYVIEW Park Hotel Manila recently launched a project dubbed Be An Angel, which aims to generate funds that will be given directly to its beneficiary, Our Lady of Peace Mission.

The Our Lady of Peace Mission, under the chairmanship of Fr. James Reuter, has been giving shelter, foods and clothes to street children being referred by social-civic organizations.

On the other hand, all hotels under the Century management will be selling a Christmas angel decoration for P100 a piece. Every angel that will be purchased will be named after the person who bought it. Call 526-1555.

Mandarin Oriental

CHILDREN and their families are invited to have their photos taken with Santa, 7-10 p.m., Dec. 16 and 24, and 12-5 p.m., Dec. 25 at Mandarin Oriental. Christmas carols will be sung by the Ateneo Boys Choir on Dec. 20 and the Hiraya Men's Chorus, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Captain's Bar. A Mass will be officiated by Fr. Domi Guzman at the ballroom on Dec. 24, 10 p.m. Mass hymns will be sung by Jonathan Malicsi and the Mother Butler Guild Choir.

Mandarin's Christmas Gems room packages, which include a selection of 8 packages ranging from P2,500+ to P7,500+ depending on the room category, may be availed of until Jan. 31, 2002. All packages include room accommodation for two, American breakfast for two at The Brasserie or the Captain's Bar, 10-percent Lobby Shop discount on selected gift items, 10-percent valet and laundry discount and free local calls. Call 750-8888.

Richmonde Hotel

HOLIDAY treats await you as the Richmonde Grill presents a buffet of Asian and Continental flavors. Diners also get pralines as tokens. On Christmas day, enjoy a lunch buffet worth P700+ per head. Call 638-7777.

Citystate Tower

AN ALTERNATIVE gift option comes from Citystate Tower Hotel this holiday season. A gift check dubbed Yuletide Treat entitles the bearer to a one-night stay with a lot of perks at the hotel in Ermita, Manila.

The special package offers room accommodation at a deluxe room with free breakfast and lunch or dinner. It also gives the bearer 10-percent discount at all F&B outlets, 10-percent discount on laundry and valet service, free welcome drinks, free newspaper, free use of safety deposit boxes and a parking slot. This Yuletide treat is available for only P1,999 net.

Citystate Tower Hotel is located at 1315 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. Call 400-7351 to -61.

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- *Source: AGB TV Meter Mega Manila Household (12 Nov. - 16 Nov. 2001)

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Call 887-2888 or 812-3456; fax 815-4825/3402; or e-mail tpm@peninsula.com.

Diamond Hotel

THE DIAMOND Hotel features gift items for a business associate. There's a gift certificate for a full-body aromatherapy massage package with beauty regimen and complimentary use of the sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and swimming pool available for P2,500 net. The Diamond Privilege Card, worth P2,200 and valid for one year, offers overnight accommodations, discounts on food and beverage at all dining outlets and health club.

Gift certificates, with denominations of P1,000, P2,000 and P5,000, for use at any of the hotel's facilities are also available. Check out the Christmas Goodie Shop at the lobby where you can shop for specialty cakes, pastries, baked breads and chocolate pralines. Call 526-2211.

Manila Midtown Hotel

STAY at Manila Midtown Hotel's rooms while celebrating the holidays. Highly recommended is the deluxe junior suite, which is available for P4,500. Load up with The Vogue Coffee Shop's Rib Eye Surprise, roasted Angus beef served with vegetables and baked Idaho potatoes. It comes with Smoked Salmon and Orange Marlin with Vegetable Salad, Horseradish Cream, Crab Bisque, Sweet Corn Soup and a glass of red wine. Available on Dec. 24, 25 and 31 for P495+.

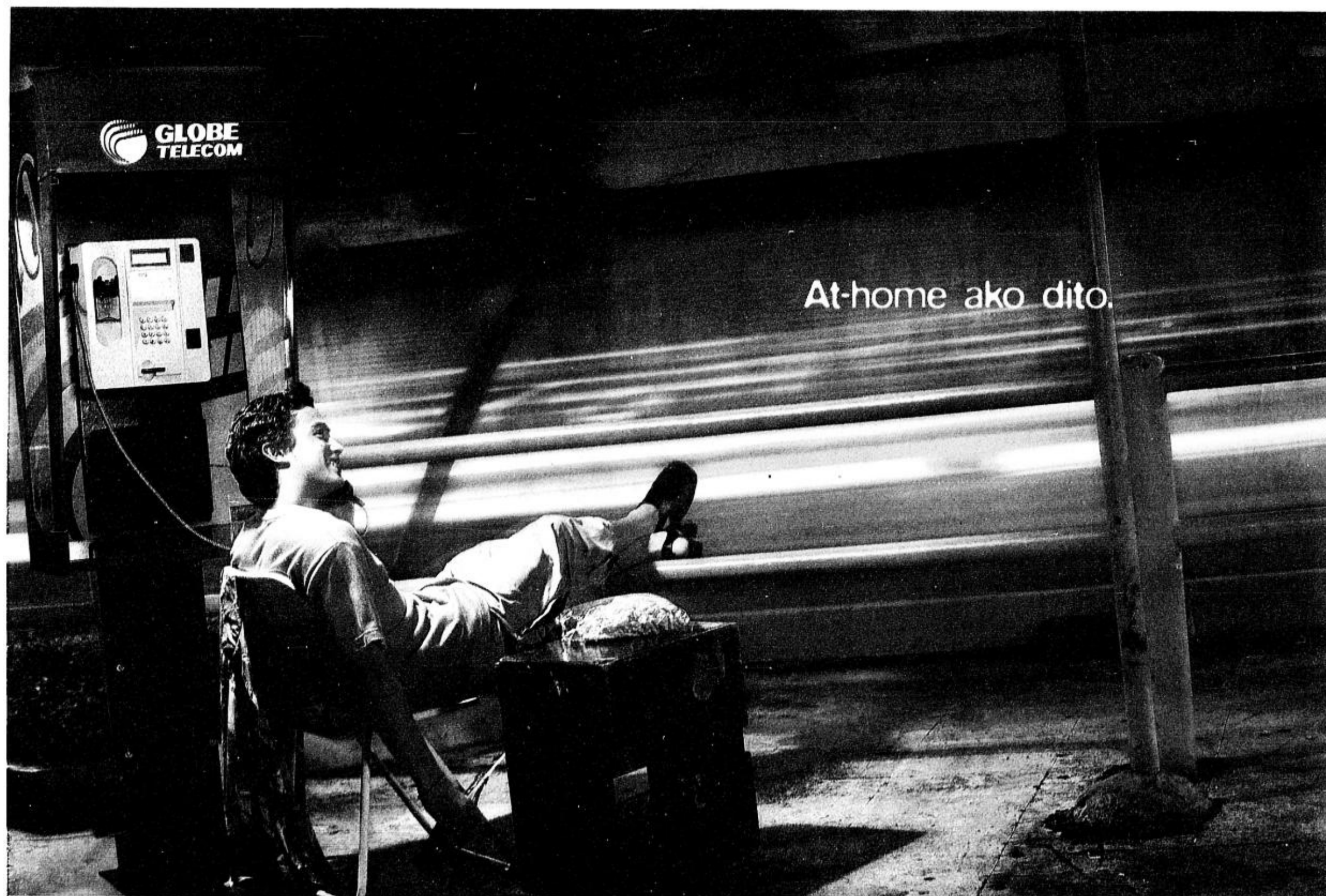
Sample the mocha-flavored cake at Maxim's Pastry Shop at P55 per slice. Available for the whole month of December. Jingle bear comes with this month's drink, a blend of Tryzubnaya Chocolate Vodka, Bailey's Irish Crème, chocolate milk and vanilla ice cream. Available for P242.

Bibingka and puto bumbong are served at the hotel lobby with native chocolate and salabat, 6-10 p.m. Call 526-7001.

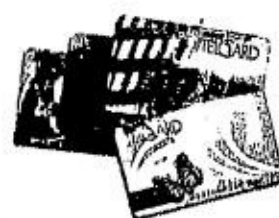
Edsa Shangri-La

PAPARAZZI'S serves antipasti lunch buffet with prime ribs until Dec. 23 and Dec. 26-31. On Christmas and New Year, enjoy dinner of herbed rack of lamb, risotto, pasta with shrimps, roast turkey

HOTELS/p.C6



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Sunday **LIFESTYLE**

LANI MISALUCHA

The chameleon diva

SHE arrived rather late in the scene, but when she did, she was readily acknowledged as one of the divas.

Lani Misalucha claims to be a family woman first and a singer only second. Not that she doesn't take her singing seriously, but that she doesn't think of herself as a diva even if fans are clamoring to put that label on her.

For this Playtime, the Lifestyle staff chose to divert from the usual venue at the INQUIRER's

PLAYTIME

By the staff

fielding the burning questions to the diva even while spooning hot soup to the mouth.

At the coffee shop of the hotel, Lani looked the young wife and mother in her white cotton long-sleeved shirt, low-waist tapered denim pants, and the signature layered haircut with highlights which fans have started calling the Lani Misalucha Look.

What started as a somewhat formal interview winded down to chitchat as everyone warmed up to the diva, including the head waiter who told her, "Kaya pala namimilipit ang wife ko 'pag narinig na'ng boses n'yo."

Then, of course, it was kodakan time with the hotel's restaurant staff.

THE CHAMELEON/p.D3

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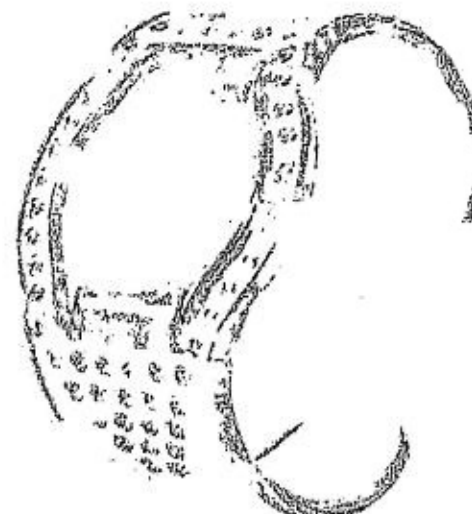
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Little things will make a big difference this cash-strapped Christmas

"THE ANGEL Who Couldn't Sing." This Christmas story passed on to me by Efrén Laureola, resident manager of Manila Manor Hotel in Malate and an Opus Dei cooperator, will certainly lift up your spirits as it did mine.

Efrén read the original version years ago and reconstructed it from memory.

The first time he shared it with wife Susan, both were crying.

The story may make you feel good, or inspire you to open your closets and bring out old clothes and shoes for the prisoners in your city jails. It says that, despite the depressing times and a Christmas that some people are calling gloomy, a light will make us feel different.

It all depends on your attitude because Christmas happens in the heart.

For the past years, Marivic Dino of Malate Parish has been bringing hardboiled eggs to the Manila City Jail. One egg per prisoner. It's not much, but the prisoners look forward to it for filling up their hunger.

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion gave gifts to 850 inmates in the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong. Some Metro Manila chapters of the Apostleship of Prayer did the same for the prisons near them.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



These little things make a difference, warming the hearts of our less fortunate brethren. Like the touching effort of the little angel who couldn't sing.

Angelic reward

One day in Heaven, a call came from the celestial music director for all angels to join the choir practices. A little angel obediently answered it. Despite his determination to sing as best he could, he just kept getting out of tune. His discordant voice would always stand out and ruin the harmony of the rest. This went on for a few more sessions, until one day the music director privately told the little angel to first practice on his own. He could return after improving his singing. The downhearted angel went back to his



FR. Diwane Cacao during healing in Los Baños

quarters, struggling with the musical notes, hardly succeeding at each attempt.

Not long after this heartbreaking experience, another call rang loud throughout the Kingdom: everyone had to be present at a momentous occasion in the land of Judah. Although hesitant because of the prospect of having to sing "in harmony" with the rest, the little angel joined the assembly and marched with everyone else.

Upon reaching their destination, they came across some shepherds resting in a cave along the slope of a distant hill, looking after their sheep sleeping on the grass. The angelic army head announced to the shepherds what awaited them at the nearby town of Bethlehem: in a dilapidated shed for animals, over which shone a brilliant star, lay a special infant in swaddling clothes. After the announcement, the host of angels marched up and down the clouds of the night, chanting: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will!"

When the angels headed for town, the shepherds jumped from their location and trotted to the shed. The youngest, asked to look after the sheep, had an extremely grumpy look on his face. One could easily read his thoughts: "Why do I always have to be the one to stay behind?"

Seeing the disappointment in the shepherd's eyes, the little angel thought of the perfect excuse for him not to sing at Bethlehem. He caught up with the music director and asked to take the young shepherd boy's place, so the latter would get to see the babe. The music director obliged. Hearing the angel's tidings, the young shepherd jumped for joy and ran off toward town till he caught up with his companions.

From his position, the little angel who couldn't sing saw the star shining brightly over the shed. Between his relief and anxiety, he tried to imagine about the infant boy, whom he had heard was of greatest importance to mankind. He wished he could sing for him at that moment. Though he was also relieved not to be there to disrupt the celestial choir. Halfway through these thoughts, the little angel was awakened by a winged colleague's hush-hush call: "The Child's Mother is calling for you. I will take your place here. Go!"

After taking a big gulp of his spiritual saliva, the little angel reluctantly swung toward Bethlehem. On his way, he met the group of shepherds returning to the hill where they left their flock. The young shepherd boy waved at him, as if saying: "Thanks for letting me see the baby." "Yeah, right!" the little angel thought to himself. "I'll probably be grounded forever for doing you that favor. What will I say to the Lady?"

When the shepherds got back to their flock, they couldn't help but look meditatively toward Bethlehem. Peace and joy ran deep in their hearts. "Who will this infant boy turn out to be?" they wondered. Suddenly, in that holiest of nights, there broke out the sweetest voice they ever heard, singing the most beautiful song in praise of a newborn child. It came from the direction of the shed. It turned out to be the voice of the angel who once could not sing. For his act of kindness for the youngest shepherd, the Lady had gifted him with the most beautiful voice among the angelic host.

Coffee cherub, Christmas tree and 'belens'

This story inspired Efrén Laureola to name the little angel Courtney. He doesn't know why he chose that name in particular, but he and his family have been calling on Courtney to help them in tasks like finding a parking space. Courtney is now the name of the Manila Manor coffee shop. Go up the hotel coffee shop and see the name proudly displayed. The angel paintings of Lex Cachapero and Caloy Gabuco are also displayed.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite is putting up a giant Christmas tree to be lit up by 500 donated bulbs. A love offering of P1,000 can light up one bulb. The proceeds will be used to continue building the new church, which was designed by the late restoration architect Felix Imperial. Those who want to help, please call (046) 517-5064 or 517-5065. Or write Fr. Paul de Leon of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.

Businessman Bing Manese's *belens* made of indigenous materials come in large and small sizes and are poignantly inspiring. To order, please call Carmi Manese at 536-0216.

A beautiful plate sculpture of Our Lady of La Leche by well-known painter and sculptor Dr. Tony Raymundo. Diameter of 7 inches, made of resin. To order, please call Baby Gonzales at 531-3063.

Community and church-related announcements

We were blessed to have attended the 10th anniversary of Fr. Diwane Cacao on Dec. 8 at the Dei Sancti Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, Laguna. For healing schedule, please call (0917) 470-7181.

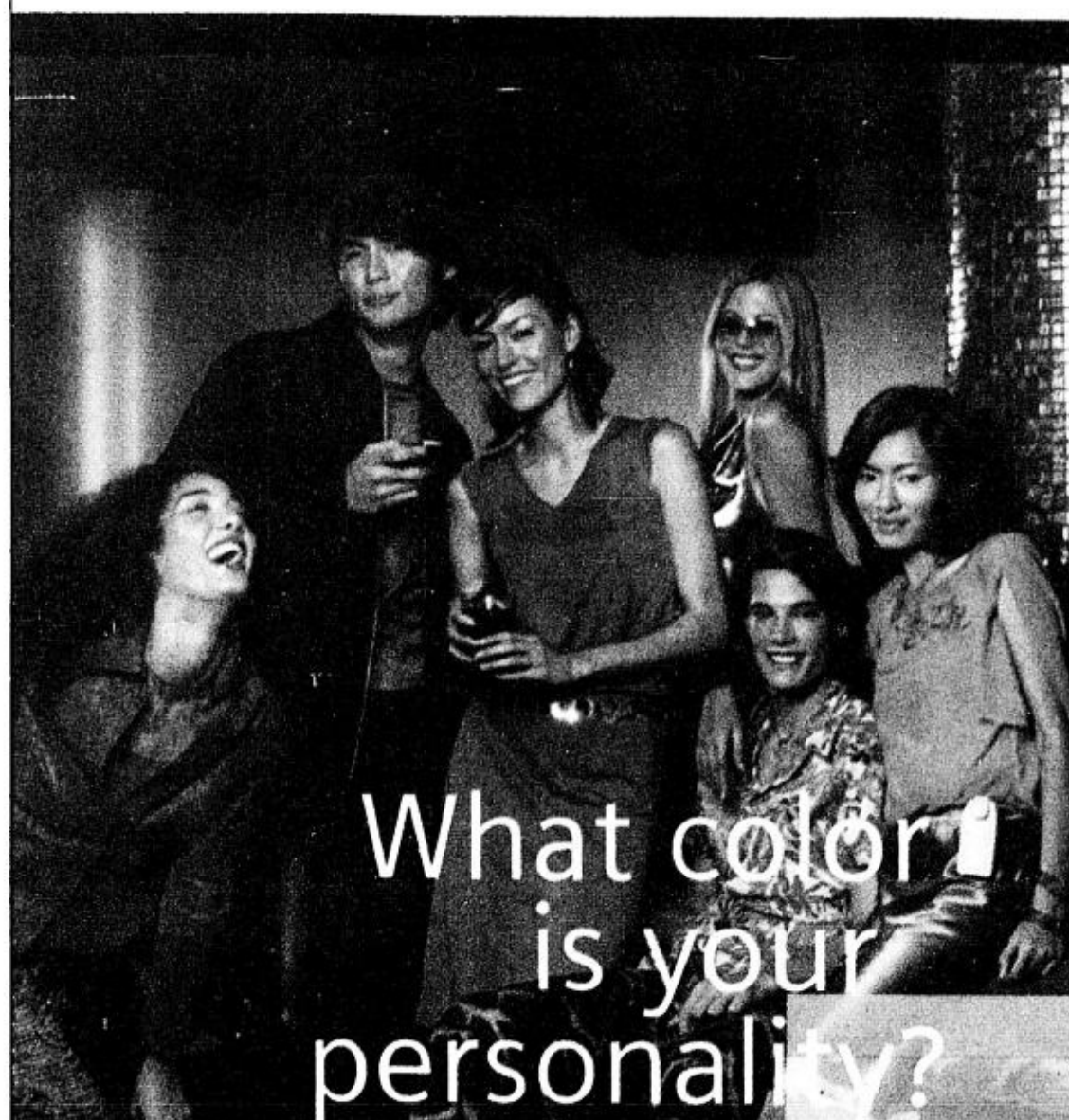
The Dec. 5 concert was held by some parish clergy from the Holy Child Jesus College in Gu-maca to raise funds for the ongoing projects of the Parish Youth Coordinating Council. Musical director was Fr. Jing Caparros. To inquire how to help, please call Niles Breis at (0916) 321-1763.

Raquel Aspiras, please beep me at 141-020543. I need to get more novenas to Our Lady of Namacpacan. Thank you.

Friends will gather at Malate Church for the first death anniversary of Albert Seeland on Dec. 22, 6 p.m.



PLATE sculpture of Our Lady of La Leche by Dr. Tony Raymundo



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 ORIENTAL BLUE Honesty and loyalty are two of the traits a true blue lover is known for. Prove it by getting this color!	 FRESH LEMON Full of energy, joy and love, lucky and being so positive and full of life, you'll be green with envy, owning this one.	 HOT MAGMA You are strong and full of passion. Others look up to you and love everything that makes up your personality, including the phone you choose.	 LIGHT STEEL Sleek in look and yet has a calming effect because of the strength of steel that secures the essence of your personality.	 SHINING PEARL You are pure and simple, but also a gem that will not shy away from a chance to be in the spotlight. The time is now. Shine baby, shine!
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The chameleon diva

(From page D1)

When is your Christmas show that is sponsored by Bench?

Dec. 23, *d'yun sa Glorietta.*

You were abroad recently, where were you?

Chicago and New York.

Did you have concerts?

'Yung sa Atlantic, concert ni Martin. 'Yung sa Chicago, ako.

How much is your fee?

You're asking me? (Laughs) You're really asking me? (Laughs) Actually, *iba-iba...* [Depending on] their capacity to pay, *s'yempre kung ano bang event 'yon, kung ano'ng organization, kung charity ba s'ya o ano...* the last time we accepted something na *talaga*... totally gratis.

How many kids do you have?

Two, my eldest is 10 and my youngest is 8 years old. Both girls.

Saan sila nag-aaral?

Dito lang sa Makati. Actually, church siya tapos nagtayo n... ila ng school. Before there's only from kinder to grade two. Tapos every year nagdadagdag sila. So ngayon hanggang grade six na. Malit na school lang 'yun. Gusto ko 'yung ganon kasi konti lang talaga 'yung estudyante. 'Yung grade one isang section lang talaga.

So 'yung eldest mo grade four?

Yeah, grade four na.

Alam ba nila na ang mommy nila si Lani Misalucha? Aware ba sila sa popularity mo?

They are aware pero parang wala lang.

Do you think having a family hampers your career?

Do you and Regine get along well?

Yes, when it comes to work, yes.

Pero hindi kayo personal friends?

No



Not at all. As a married woman, I cannot say that. *Lahat ng nangyayari sa akin ngayon, I give credit to my family because probably without them, hindi ako ganito mag-perform, hindi ako mag-i-serve talaga to earn more. For some probably that could be their rationalization, but for me, not at all. I find fulfillment in what's happening now, having a career and a family. They go together so well.*

And if tomorrow the career is no longer...?

I still have my family. *Sabi ko nga mawala na lahat kesa naman mawala pamilya mo, di ba?*

How is your husband taking your success?

He's taking it well. Well, at first, no... (Laughs)

What does your husband do?

He's with PLDT. *'Yung position n'ya napakahaba—Intranet Internet administrator. (Laughs)* He's more of an intellectual person.

Where did you meet?

Sa church. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints... commonly known as Mormons.

Are you not discouraged from pursuing a career like yours by your church?

No, actually they're very supportive. The only thing is, since our church is very conservative... *'yung mga fully converted, fully spiritual members, you wouldn't see them wearing sleeveless or above-the-knee skirt. (Laughs)*

Pero ikaw you can wear anything? Exemption ka? (laughter)

Ako? *Salbahe ako, eh. (Laughs)* Hindi, hindi naman. *Nakakahiya nga...*

Kumbaga hindi ka Mormon na sarado? (Laughs) Di ba Katoliko sarado? (Laughs)

Hindi. You know what? *Tanggap nila, they do understand.*

Pinapakanta ka rin sa church?

Oo naman. *'Yun na lang 'yung isa sa mga ways na... I'm with the choir, I sing in some of our activities.*

Ang hirap mo sigurong ka-choir member. (Laughter) Solo soprano... (Laughter)

Hoy, hindi... (laughs) *'yun ang isa sa magandang training ko kasi when you're in a choir, you cannot sing as a solo singer, you would look stupid, you have to blend in with the other voices.*

How about your children, do they sing?

Oo, *'yung panganay ko nasa choir s'ya.*

When did you start singing talaga?

1989 sa band. *Prelude ang pangalan... [we performed in] Manila Hotel, nu'ng buhay pa 'yung Music Hall, sa Cosmo Bar sa Annapolis.*

You were the lead singer?

No, *tatlo kaming frontliners.*

And what was the repertoire?

Pop talaga tapos a little of jazz. *Nagpipili nag-jazz. (Laughs)*

But your training is for opera?

Actually, *hindi training... ewan ko parang nakagisan lang namin... no training at all.*

What do you mean? You grew up to that music?

Oo... *gano'n klase 'yung nadidinig namin sa buhay na p... tatutugtog ng tatay ko. Tapos 'yung mga music piece na nakalagay sa ilalim ng upuan ng piano...*

Everyone ba in your family sings?

Yes, pati parents.

THE CHAMELEON/p.D4

Two breakthrough products from Carefree

TODAY'S women are always on the go. But while they juggle their time between their family and career, today's women still need to feel freshly feminine all the time. Carefree, the number 1 brand of Panty Liners, knows exactly what women want and has come up with two breakthroughs to meet every woman's need.

The New Carefree G-String Panty Liners is the latest innovation from the brand that clearly understands women's needs. It's the answer to the problems of thong wearers. In adding this new variant to their already diverse line, Carefree knows that today's woman make choices and she is able to make choices with regards to her everyday hygiene. No longer will she have to be uncomfortable due to fashion constraints. She can now feel and look good and stay fresh and comfortable.

The new Carefree G-String Panty Liner's innovative design is shaped like a thong and has adhesive wings so that it stays in place. Its comfort and design is so created so that you won't even know it's there.

Another innovation is the New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner that promises the utmost comfort and utility with its 1 mm thinness that does away with that bulky feeling women complain about. It also has an AIRFLO back sheet that allows air to circulate and releases skin dampness.

The inner absorbent layer adds to the drier, fresher feeling. The new contour shape gives a better and more comfortable fit, a premium for active women. The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner is available in scented (Shower Fresh) and unscented variants.

Carefree truly understands the needs of today's women and has come up with products that will make women feel fresh and comfortable all day.

The New Carefree G-String Panty Liners and New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liners are now available in leading supermarkets.

Carefree innovates for the modern woman

The introduction of Thong underwear has given us the answer to hiding those unsightly panty lines when we try to dress our best. Yet, the panty liners we wear everyday don't particularly fit our thongs. Carefree, the No. 1 brand of Panty Liners, introduces a product that addresses the need for freshness and comfort even while wearing thongs.

New Carefree G-String Panty Liners is the latest innovation from the brand that clearly understands women's needs. In developing this new variant to their already diverse line, Carefree knows that today's woman makes choices and she is now able to make choices with regards to her everyday hygiene. No longer will she have to be uncomfortable due to fashion constraints. One can now feel good, look good and stay fresh and comfortable.

The new Carefree G-String Panty Liner's innovative design is shaped like a thong and has adhesive wings so that it stays in place. Its comfort and design is so created so that you won't even know it's there.

Carefree knows what today's woman needs and it has innovated a product that gives women comfort and freshness as she carries off her own sense of style. New Carefree G-String Panty Liners are available in leading supermarkets.

Carefree launches airier, thinner, better liner

To feel dry and fresh all day, it is recommended that women wear panty liners on a regular basis. However, many complain about wearing them because they feel uncomfortable and leave them with a "bulky feeling." Carefree, the No. 1 brand of

Panty Liners introduces a product that will do away with this uncomfortable feeling.

The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner promises the utmost comfort and utility with its 1 mm thinness that does away with that bulky feeling women sometimes complain about. It also has an AIRFLO back sheet that allows air to circulate and releases skin dampness.

The inner absorbent layer adds to the drier, fresher feeling. The new contour shape gives a better and more comfortable fit, a premium for active women. The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner is available in scented (Shower Fresh) and unscented variants.

Carefree truly understands the needs of today's women and has come up with a product that will make women dry and fresh all day, every day.

The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liners are now available in leading supermarkets.



Carefree G-String Panty Liners and Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liners

Thinner means fresher.

New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin. Breathable Freshness Imm. thin.

20

The chameleon diva

(From page D3)

Wow, your parties must be really good! (Laughter)

Yes, and noisy, too. (Laughs)
Pero kayo lang ni May ang professional singers sa ngayon, di ba?

Oo, kami 'yung nag-pursue sa singing. You were not discouraged?

At first, yes. I remember nu'ng nasa high school pa ko, si ate nasa college na. Ako magga-graduate na ng high school, si Ate May magga-graduate na ng college. Before pa s'ya maka-graduate ng college, gano'n na 'yung interest n'ya. May mga nag-i-invite na sa kanya to join a band. Eh 'yung perception ng parents namin sa band o sa music industry, hindi gano'n kaganda.

What made you join a band?

Nag-favor lang sa kin si Ate May kasi 'yung band leader ng Prelude ang kakila ni Ate May, si Jun Lacanienta. Pinakilala sa kin si Jun dahil kailangang-kailangan nila ng singer. Alam kasi nu'ng Jun na mero pang kapatid si May Bayot na marunong kumanta, na me boses naman, mga gano'ng tema, so 'yun, doon na nag-start 'yon.

Then you were earning...

Yes... you can't imagine how much I was earning that time, that was what, year 1989. (Laughter) You won't believe, a night of three sets of 45 minutes, that would start like 8:45 and we will finish at 12:45 in the amount of P250. (Laughs) Since ako 'yung newcomer, I'm pretty sure that they were receiving a lot more than P250 kasi we were in a talent management na talaga nagpapadala s'ya sa abroad, tapos dito malakas talaga 'yung talent agency na 'yon.

How many days in a week were you performing?

I started mga two times a week.

So you were earning P500 na? (Laughter)

Exactly, P500. For a student like me, that was good enough, di ba? Magkano lang ang baon namin P15 or P20.

What course were you taking?

Business Ad. Where did you take up business ad?

Philippine Christian University.

Why did you take up business ad instead of something related to music?

I would have loved to, but just the same, our parents discouraged us. Actually, ang sister ko, she wanted to take up fine arts. O sige huwag na fine arts, music na lang sabi ng ate ko, ayaw pa rin. Gano'n din ako, gusto ko sana sa arts, fine arts or music, ayaw talaga ng tatay ko. "Take up something else." Pero ang tatay ko artist. He paints, he plays the piano...

Were you planning at that time to engage in some kind of business?

'Yun lang ang gusto ko, tatapusin ko ang college ko and then tingnan ko kung maganda ba ang fortune ko sa line ng business. Since nag-umpisa na kong mag-banda no'n, nakita ko na ang sarili ko, starting to get involved in singing na nga, then I was earning a little hanggang sa naging four times a week na ko no'n, iba-iba na 'yung pwesto namin—dalawa na sa Manila Hotel, isa sa Music Hall, isa sa Cosmo Bar—how much is that na, di ba? Eh nag-increase pa ko ng P50 (Laughter), so P300 din. At least nu'ng time na 'yun, provided ang costumes namin na super chaka, 'di ba 1980s? Can you imagine the fashion then? (Laughter) So nakakaaliw 'yung experiences na gano'n.

Were you asked to

Ikaw daw ang No. 1 diva ngayon...

If they think so, eh, di salamat.

Do you think you have reached the peak of your success?

I don't know if this is the peak already, eh. Something a lot better may happen in the future...

Ano pa bang gusto mo? Ano pa sa tingin mo ang kulang?

Hit song siguro na identified talaga as Lani...



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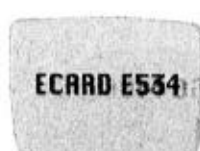
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sing in high school programs?

Oo 'yung mga gano'n.

Pero ikaw 'yung pinakamagaling?

Sabi nila. Pero ako di ko nalalaman 'yun, sinasabi lang nila. Iba ang nakakaalam kasi ako, always ang thinking ko parang, "Okay," gano'n lang ako always. So I never really thought that I could sing that well that time.

When did you realize...?

Na talagang maganda boses ko? (Laughter)

Don't tell me na hanggang ngayon di mo pa nare-realize? (Laughter)

Siguro naman, oo naman. (Laughter)

What song did you sing that made you realize "Uy, magaling pala ko talaga." Merong song na ganon di ba? Di kaya ng iba pero kaya mo. Napabilib mo sila pati sarili mo napabilib mo. (Laughter)

Siguro "Nessum Dorma." Kinakanta ko s'ya sa mga concerts ko. Can you imagine, a pop concert and you're including an aria?

When did you decide to go solo?

1996.

Why and what made you decide?

I don't know if you call it fate or destiny, I don't really believe in that. In 1992 I was with Bodjie's Law of Gravity. When I gave birth to my first child sabi ko na di na ko babalik talaga. Alam mo 'yon? Minsan gano'n eh, mauyay ka

sa isang bagay na ginagawa mo, especially after you just gave birth. I got big and I was so drowned with taking care of my child.

Homebody talaga ako. To tell you honestly, medyo may pagka-antisocial pa nga ako eh, maybe because I'm shy. I didn't think I would go back to singing. Hanggang sa nag-1-year-old 'yung first child ko, si Luven, eto na naman 'yung ate ko, "Lani, please, nakakahiya kay Bodjie," kasi s'ya 'yung singer, eh, dalawa sila na back-up singers. Eh biglang maganda 'yung naging deal n'ya for biyahe na naman... So pinakiusapan nya ko.

Tuloy-tuloy na naman 'yon?

Oo, with Bodjie, [that was] '92 tapos hanggang sa si Bogie, "Alam mo pwede ka namang mag-solo," sabi n'ya sa akin. "Bakit ayaw mong mag-solo? I'll produce your album, I'll take care of it." That time 'yung "Bodjie's Law of Gravity" album was with Alpha, doon s'ya naka-contract. Sabi n'ya, "Ako na mag-aasikaso n'yan lahat. Tapos bahala na kung kailangan ba natin ng manager and all that." "I don't know," sabi ko. Okay lang ako sa ganito kasi somehow ibang usapan na 'yan, di katulad 'pag banda, pupwesto ka lang tapos na, not unlike 'pag sa album, nandyan 'yung ipo-promote mo, magre-recording ka, you have to appear on TV, radio, malls and all that... hanggang sa nai-brought



Do you think having a family hampers your career?

Not at all. As a married woman, I cannot say that... I give credit to my family because probably without them, hindi ako ganito mag-perform, hindi ako mag-i-strive talaga to earn more

up na naman n'ya 'yan nu'ng 1993.

Then my husband and I talked about it, we were so cold to the idea. Hanggang sa 1994 binanggit n'ya sa kin ulit. Kaming mag-asawa talagang heart-to-heart talk kasi alam namin hindi biro 'yun hanggang sa nag-'95, umoo na ko.

Why did you say yes after all the years that you kept saying no?

Siguro dahil sabi ko bakit ko hindi naman pagbigyan 'yung sarili ko. I've been giving so much of myself to others, why not give myself a chance or highlight ko naman 'yung sarili ko. So finally, nag-guest ako kay Bodjie ng '95, nag-Metropop, nag-interpret ako ng song ni Jimmy Borja noong 1996. That time, nag-record na kami. Natapos 'yung album ng 96, ni-launch namin ng '97, 'yun na 'yung first album.

What was it called?

"More Than I Should."

Even when you were out of the limelight na sabi mo you were concentrating on your kids, were you also doing the multiplex?

Yes. That time okay na rin 'yon, eh. Let's say a single song, a Mariah Carey song, 'yung pina-ka-lead song, 'yung pinaka-solo song is P500 na. Eh di ba maraming back-up, usually ang nagagamit mo, ilang mga voicing 'yon, di ba? Minsan mga three voices 'yon, kapag ire-record

yon, ang per track is P75. So if you're going to make four tracks, o di apat na P75 di ba? So P300 din 'yon. In one day's recording meron ka nang P800, wala ka pang makeup, hindi ka nagdamit at nagsapatos nang maganda, you didn't even have to exert any effort to look okay.

And you could bring your kids to the recording studio.

Yes. On the side din I was doing some TV jingles, radio commercial jingles.

Like ano'ng mga jingles?

Sa radyo mga ginawa ko Rejoice shampoo, sa TV ako gumawa ng Dari Crème, tagal na 'yon eh. 'Yung sa isang bangko, tapos 'yung sa Smart, ang dami din eh...

Have you tried performing in an opera?

No. I would love to try. How I wish I could do that pero since iba yung sitwasyon ko, mahirap na kasi like just doing the "Rama at Sita" noon, wow, ate up all my time.

At this time, at your age, is your voice still fit for opera?

Yes, I think so.

Have you been in a musical?

"Rama at Sita," 'yun lang ang full-length na ginawa ko.

How long has Ronnie Henares been your manager?

Almost three.

Who was your manager when you were multiplex queen?

Ateng Perez. After ni Bodjie nung ni-launch ko na yung album ko, wala pang nagha-handle talaga sa akin so ang nag-aact na manager ko is Bodjie Dasig, my personal manager was Odette Quesada. Since they were both artists, pinasa nila ako don sa manager ni Bodjie na si Mariness Carvajal. Next napunta na ko kay Teng Perez in '98. Then later part ng '98 Teng had to go to the United States so I was left with none na naman. So for a period of time wala akong manager, kami lang dalawa (Lourdes)... So mga kalahating taon wala akong manager.

At that time Ronnie was already handling Regine, di ba?

That was one of the reasons na ayoko. Paano nang mangyayari? Sya yung flag carrier ng Primeline, di ba? E ang linya namin ni Regine almost the same, so paanong mangyayari no'n? Pero nung magsa-sign up na ko kay Ronnie, I didn't know na wala na pala talaga si Regine. Pero nakakarinig na kami ng mga usap-usapan na wala na daw.

Do you and Regine get along well?

Yes, when it comes to work, yes.

Pero hindi kayo THE CHAMELEON/ p.D6

ART ity Pals sents Belinda



Plus New Virtual Friends
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GIVE
Chocolates

2. Give your Celebrity Pal gifts.
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GO MOVIE

3. Go places with your Celebrity Pal.
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HUG

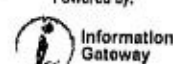
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and send to 250.

HI

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ART
Amazing!

The chameleon diva

(From page D5)

personal friends?

No.
When did you start hosting "SOP"?

Last year lang... It's like this: When you are starting and when you're trying to make a name, s'yempre you're not that hot pa di ba? Okay, 'yun 'yung time na I was striving, struggling, I was climbing my way up. Though somehow, I was being acknowledged na rin sa "SOP" na okay akong kumanta, hanggang sa unti-unti nang napapadala akong tinatawag sa "SOP" at madalas din akong tinatawag sa "Asap."

Disappear na si Vina, wala na si G Toengi, si Ruffa pagano'n-gano'n na lang dahil sa US na s'ya nakabase. So they were left with Regine, Cacai, Ogie and Jano. Si Jaya no'n pa-guesting-guesting din. Until finally nawala si Cacai because she was going to give birth. Tapos naging regular na si Jaya. So Regine, Jaya, Jano and Ogie, so apat. Until finally ginagawa na nila akong regular, pero ang deal namin is... ako talaga I cannot really work all Sundays of the month. Twice a month, maximum na 'yung three times.

Why is that?

I don't want to work on a Sunday because I go to church on Sundays. It's family day...

Doon sa "SOP" may inggitan ba?

(Pauses and laughs) (To Lourdes) May inggitan daw sa "SOP"? You're the new kid on the block, di ba? So did they make you feel welcome? Or did they feel threatened?

You know, I felt welcomed and 'yung aming working atmosphere was quite good.

So you don't feel there's resentment?

Wala eh. Kami ni Jaya, especially Jaya, knowing her, she is a very warm person. You get comfortable with her so easily just like any other person, maganda 'yung aura n'ya palagi.

How about you and Regine and Cacai?

You know, kasi I...
Nata-tongue twist ka yata. (Laughter)

Kasi I really cannot say... Let me put it this way, Regine and I are not



PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

really that close only because twice a month lang ako doon. Pag nandoon sya wala ako because kumpleto sila.

Di kayo pinagsasabay?

Hindi, nagsasabay kami. Nagkakatag lang, talagang nagkakataon lang.

Kasi baka akala ng viewers, lalo na 'pag masama ang isip...

Exactly. 'Yun ang minsang observation nila, 'yun ang observation ng karamihan. "Bakit gano'n? 'Pag wala si Regine, nandyan ka; pag ikaw ang wala, nandyan si Regine? Only because 'yun ang talagang ginagawa na nila na since kung wala ako o kung wala si Regine hindi ma-no-notice ang absence because at least nandoon pa rin ang Jaya, Lani, Cacai, 'yung mga ganon. Because whatever you say she's still the one on top of everybody.

Have you done a duet with Regine?

No. When I was just guesting, when I was not a host yet.

'Pag nagdu-duet ba may rehearsals pa ba 'yon?

Wala na. During a commercial break, that's the only time.

What if Regine wants to go back

to Ronnie, to get him again as manager, what would you do?

I won't mind.

Di kaaalis?

Hindi ako aalis. Bakit ako aalis? Sinong manager ni Regine ngayon?

I really do not know.

How do you handle intrigues?

I don't handle them at all. (Laughs) It's funny. Iba 'yung nag-aaway for us.

Is "Loving You" always a part of your repertoire?

Yes, before. Pero noong sa Araneta hindi sya talaga included. Ni'ng nag-"more, more, more" lang, kinanta na lang namin.

Was that the first time you sang "Loving You" lying down?

Probably the people thought that was the first time I did that. 'Yung "Love Concert" with Zsa Zsa and Freestyle, they thought that was the first time because that was the only time na maraming taong nakapanood na ginawa ko 'yon, but the truth is, I did that a year ago in Music Museum when Floy Quintos asked me to do it. Sabi nya to make a difference naman since you've been doing "Loving

You" in your shows ngayon naman gawin mo pero nakahiga.

What do you do as discipline for your voice? Do you vocalize at home?

Dati hindi ko ginagawa 'yon eh. Di ba usually tayo paggising paos? Kahit di ka singer, gano'n. Ako hindi gano'n, paggising ko normal na kaagad ang boses ko. (Kumbaga sa sasakyan) di ko na pinaiinit. Until nitong Sept. 8 concert ko sa Araneta. Siguro dahil iba na edad ko, tapos before pa 'yung concert na 'yan, may ni-racket pa ko, alam mo na? Di mo maiwasan may magpapabor sa yo na hindi mo mahindian tapos sunod-sunod na rehearsals. E ako pa si gaga pag nagre-rehearse, para kong nagpe-perform na.

Then we had a Friday night run ng show. Sabado ang concert, ayos ako, ayos ang boses. S'yempre 'pag nag-run ka kailangan 'yung parang nagpe-perform ka kasi lahat pati sound system, s'yempre para malaman nila pagtimpla and all that—the lights and everything. So I was like performing. After that, I rushed to the spa to have a massage and then nag-dry sauna ako. The follow-

ing day when I woke up, wala akong boses. Totally wala akong boses. Masama pala 'yun, dry sauna, 'yung bato lang na bubuhusan mo ng tubig, tapos e di dry ka, tapos nagsusweat ka pa, lumalabas lahat ng tubig sa katawan mo, e di na-dehydrate ka, pati lungs mo. Isang malaking lesson sa akin ang nangyari. So gano'n 'yung nangyari—pagod, rehearsals...

Paano 'yung concert?

Paos ako. I called my doctor, 4 p.m. "Paano ba to, doc, wala akong boses?" Binigyan ako ng steroids, oral. That night may boses ako, binoo lang para lumabas lang 'yung boses ko pero hindi 'yon ang top shape ng boses ko.

Now what do you do? Nag-lingat ka na?

Before any show that you do, at least warm up your voice para lumuwag lang sya.

What is your signature song? What is the song that you want to be remembered by?

Wala eh. Di katulad 'pag sinabi mong Regine Velasquez, "Narito Ako" or (Sings) "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" (Laughter) Gano'n di ba? Sa akin... Kasi wala akong monster hit

na 'pag sinabing Aiza Seguerra, "Pagdating ng Panahon," di ba?

Martin Nievera...

"Be My Lady," marami di ba? Ako wala.

Wala pa. Kasi na-identify ka na ginagaya o kinokopya mo lang sila.

Exactly.

Are you trying to get away from that image now?

Oo.

Which song is talagang si Lani Misalucha, hindi gaya?

"Loving You."

Sino sa mga composers ang nagbibigay palagi sa 'yo ng songs? Iba-iba eh, kasi 'yung pinaka-last kong album na studio album, iba-iba silang composers na nandoon.

Kamusta na kayo ni Zsa-Zsa?

Okay. Kasi akala ng iba war kami... akala ng tao...

Na-upstage mo daw s'ya sa concert eh.

Akala ng tao... 'yun 'yung isang nakakahiya...

What really happened?

This year, 'yung Feb. 14 na "Love Concert," the following day yata, may lumabas sa dyaryo "Nalamon, nasa-pawan ni Lani Misalucha sa kanyang bonggang performance, etc. etc." Actually, 'yung write-up all praises sa akin.

So 'pag pumunta kami sa bahay n'yo naka-frame 'yon? (Laughter)

Nakakahiya kay Zsa-Zsa. Kahit sa akin baka ang isipin ko naku, baka pakana 'to... 'yung mga gano'n... Eh may sumagot, writer-fan, ako naman ang binombard. So mga fans, hindi kami.

So kayo ni Zsa-Zsa okay kayo?

Yes.

Sino ang friends mo sa show biz?

None. My friends are low-profile... Though okay naman 'yung relationship namin, like ako and Jaya okay naman, at 'yung mga kaibigan ni Jaya, na Opera, sina Manolo, sina Susy... kasi nakasama ko rin sila sa teatro.

Has it happened to you in one of your concerts na you forgot the lyrics of your song?

Naku, it happens to me all the time.

What do you do 'pag gano'n?

[I ask the audience to] Sing along! (Laughter) Sa Araneta wala naman,

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The chameleon diva

(From page D6)

nababali-baliktad ko lang.
Sa CCP?

Ay, oo, doon meron. 'Yung diva's medley ko, Zsa-Zsa, Jaya, Whitney, Barbra, 'yung kay Barbra Streisand pa 'yung nakalimutan ko kasi iniba 'yung arrangement, kumuha lang ng isang line dito, tapos ibang line na, nalito na ko tapos iba pa 'yung nag-appear sa TelePrompster.

Ano'ng ginawa mo?
Emote ka lang. (Laughter) Nakakaaliw! Kasi sa dami, punong-puno na 'yung memory box mo ng lyrics. (Laughter)

Kanino ka bilib sa mga local artists? 'Yung totoo ha?

I really like Vernie Varga, I love Basil Valdez, Louie Reyes, Jacky Magno...

Regine?
Regine? Yes, I like Regine. Actually, ang gusto ko kay Regine, ang linais nyang kumanta. Malinis ang nota n'ya. Martin, Gary...

Pero how would you describe 'yung singing style mo? Because your critics always say na you've been known as a multiplex queen so 'yung style mo walang particular style, ina-adapt mo lang daw ang style ng ibang singers.

'Yun na 'yung style ko.
Do you go to the hair salon every day?

Hello? (Laughter)
Kasi ang ganda ng buhok mo, eh.

Ay, humaba na 'to. Dito lang sa Pasay Road, Salon lang ang pangalan, barkada ko, tapat lang ng Anson, si Joseph, beautician na gwapo, sobrang gwapong bading.

Who fixes you up for concerts, makeup and hairstyle?

'Yung barkada ko. Si Joseph barkada ko din, pero meron talaga akong regular na makeup artist.

When you were doing the multiplex, parang ang haba ng hair mo, parang Farrah Fawcett...

Ha? Yikes! (Laughter) Sirena! (Laughter)

May mga conditions ka ba kay Ronnie Henares o may mga conditions s'ya sa 'yo, pa'no yon?

Oo, madami. Like ni-re-request talaga ng "SOP" na all Sundays of the month nandoon ako. Isa 'yun sa mga conditions ko, I cannot work all Sundays of the month. Twice lang ang maximum ko, isa 'yung. Whenever I'll be out of town or out of the country, hindi akong pwedeng more than two weeks, dahil mami-miss ako ng husband ko. (Laughter) Hindi, ang hirap to be away from the kids, di ba?

How true is it na nagalit si Vic del Rosario kay Ronnie because Vic was asking daw na hiram ka for a Valentine show next year pero ayaw ni Ronnie?

In fairness to my manager, it is not his decision. It is mine.

But Ronnie does your bookings, right?

Oo nga, pero ganito 'yon: Kasi nag-renew ako ng [contract] sa Viva. Naka-enclose doon sa Viva 'yung bagong albums, concerts, saka meron yatang pelikula, di ko alam. So in-announce na nila sa kin na "O, next year, concert ka ha?" E kaso talagang sabay 'yung offer ng Crossover at Viva... actually parang mas nauna pa yata 'yung sa Crossover (concert was in September)...

(Lourdes: Or nagkapi-mahan man pero wala pang plano kung kailan 'yung Viva. So dumating 'tong Crossover na kumbaga, sa kanya malaking pagkakataon na sa career n'ya na makapag-solo sa Araneta... Pero tinour muna s'ya no'n bago nagkaroon ng malaking concert.)

Kaya gano'n na lang ang gratitude ko sa Crossover kasi sino ba ko nu'ng time na 'yung? And they were very willing because they really believed in me and my talent. Talagang nagsugil sila na, "No, something's going to happen," sabi nilang gano'n and talagang 'yun 'yung binitawan nilang salita... Somehow, masasabi ko rin naman na naging successful 'yung Araneta ko, di ba? Tapos susundan mo agad, di ba parang nakakaano naman yata 'yon?

What we heard is you raised your price so Vic del Rosario got upset?

No. 'Yan din ang hirap sa kanila... Nagalit si Boss Vic kasi 'yung ang akala niya, "Ano ba nagpapa-importante kayo?" It's so hurting eh, alam mo yun? Nu'ng time na nag-struggle ako on my way up, you were not there, wala kayo doon sa likod ko na talagang ipinu-push ako. You weren't there because, of course, you were busy with another artist... di ba ang dami nilang artists? Kumbaga, pag ikaw 'yung nag-uumpisa... of course, sino ba namang tangang producer or recording company na magga-gamble sa 'yo na di nila malalaman ang result, di ba? Eh itong Crossover, talagang nagsuporta sa akin, na hindi biro ang ginastos nila, not knowing what was going to happen.

Sabi ko, "Mr. H, please tell them ako 'yung natatakot. Please tell them kung ano 'yung nararamdaman ko." Since 'yan na 'yung naririnig nila about Mr. H... totoo 'yan na medyo may kakulitan si Mr. H and some people akala mayabang o mataas magpresyo, only because he knows what he's doing. Pinasasabi ko na talagang ang dami kong fears, ang dami kong apprehensions d'yan because it's going to be another Araneta. Just imagine that. Today is already December and they just have one month to go to prepare for Feb. 14. Just imagine that, Araneta concert. Sinong di magkakaroon ng apprehensions?

So until now hindi pa rin naki-clear ang issue na 'yan between you and Vic?

Hay naku, I don't know kasi hindi ko pa talaga s'ya nakakausap eh. So gumawa sila ng solusyon, sabi ko, "Sige, para matuloy lang 'yan..." kasi sabi ko I would love to do a concert with Viva, only not this early... gawin nating nang birthday ko, August, birthday concert, just move it. It's so risky.

Are you afraid of overexposure?

'Yun na nga eh. Sila kasi they're thinking of their business. You know, February is only five months from September so siguro they're thinking na strike while the iron is hot; hot si Lani, let's do something about it. Sometimes it's really frustrating, it's hurting... ayoko namang mag-isip na ito talagang mga taong to they're thinking only of...

Profit?

Exactly. Hindi pa kasi talaga kami nag-uwasap eh. Initip kasi nila nagpapa-cute kami, nagpapa-importante...

So kay Ronnie sila galit ngayon?

I think so, kasi s'ya ang naka-front doon. I want to clear Ronnie's name not because he's my manager, but to be fair to him and all his efforts, hindi gano'n ang mga pangyayari.

How much did you earn from your last con-

cert?

Not that much. Okay lang, fair enough.

As in were you able to buy a new car?

No, I didn't buy a new car. I'm building a three-story apartment. (Laughter) What am I going to do with a new car? Revo lang panalo na 'yan, it will take you around naman 'no? Di naman asset-generating ang sasakyan di ba? Why would you buy a new car? Wala na kasi akong panibili. (Laughter)

Kids mo ano'ng gamit?

Bisikleta. (Laughter)

Pag sa concerts mo ba ikaw ang pumipili ng repertoire?

Kami-kami.

How about yung gowns na isinusuot mo for the concerts? Ikaw ba ang pumipili?

Merong dine-design ang production designer namin.

Pero do you go to any fashion designer?

Oo. 'Yung pinaka-last ko was Larry Espinosa.

Who's your musical arranger?

Iba-iba. I work with Mark Lopez, Louie Ocampo, Gerard Salonga, Lory Ilustre...

Do you also compose, do you write songs?

Hindi eh.

What was the worst thing that was said in media about you na naapektu-

What is your signature song? What is the song that you want to be remembered by?

Wala, eh. Di katulad 'pag sinabi mong Regine

Velasquez, 'Narito Ako' or (Sings) 'Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw' (Laughter)

Gano'n di ba? Sa akin...

Kasi wala akong monster hit na 'pag sinabing Aiza

Seguerra, 'Pagdating ng Panahon,' di ba?

han ka, sa tingin mo sobra na?

Marami eh. Like 'yung lumabas nga yung sapaw-sapaw queen, di ba? Nagda-die down na, almost wala na s'ya eh, tapos na. Eto naman 'yung wedding ni Aga and Charlene. Di ba kumanta kami doon? May lumabas na naman: "Talaga bang ganyan ang ugali ni Lani Misalucha na sapawan ang mga kapwa niya mga artists?" Ano na naman ang ginawa ko? (Laughter) "Kung natatandaan n'yo sinapawan ni Lani Misalucha si Zsa Zsa Padilla doon sa concert nilang "Love Concert," etc. at sa muling pagkakataon, sinubukan o binalak o nag-attempt na naman s'yang mangsapaw doon sa kasal ni Charlene at Aga."

And they were referring to Regine?

Oo. Sinapawan ko daw, eh we didn't even have a duet!

Ayaw mo ba that you are compared with other performers?

Hindi naman. Hayaan mo na lang silang mag-compare nang mag-compare. Di mo naman maiiwasan pero ang ibang writers, actually the fans, like minsan nagse-surf 'yung brother ko... talagang below the belt na mga sulat. Hindi na lang pinabasa sa akin. Sabi ko pabasa, sabi hindi na lang. Eh ako naman wala naman akong time para basahin ko pa, hindi ko talaga nabasa...

Wala namang intriga about your

marriage?

Wala, wala pa naman...

Wala namang ini-li-link sa 'yo?

Ay, wala. Boring nga, eh. (Laughter)

Wala naman ini-li-link sa husband mo?

Naku, ang asawa ko, boring ang asawa ko. (Laughter) Mabait lang talaga 'yung, he doesn't smoke, he doesn't drink... He'd rather stay at home than be with his friends.

Ang bait naman... pakopya naman. (Laughter)

Does he go to your concerts?

All the time. Boyfriend ko na 'yung husband ko nu'ng 16 pa lang ako.

Classmates kayo sa school?

Hindi, simbahan.

Matagal na kayo 'no?

Seventeen years na nga kami eh.

What are your plans for Christmas?

Usually dinner lang.

Wala kayong tradition?

'Yun lang magkakasama lang, kaming pamilya lang, mga anak ko, eh yung biyenan ko nasa amin.

Naka-decorate na ang bahay mo?

Hindi rin.

Di pa ba lumalaki ang ulo ni Lani Misalucha?

Hay naku, (To Lourdes) sukatin mo nga. (Laughter)

Ikaw daw ang No. 1 diva sa ngayon...

If they think so, eh di salamat.

Do you think you have reached the peak of your success?

I don't know if this is the peak already, eh. Something a lot better may happen in the future...

Ano pa bang gusto mo? Ano pa sa tingin mo ang kulang?

Hit song siguro na identified talaga sa Lani...

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4. Promo period is from December 1, 2001 to February 28, 2002. Deadline for dropping of entries is on February 28, 2002. Mailed entries should be received not later than March 12, 2002.
5. Raffle draw will be held on March 14, 2002, 2:00pm at Guaranteed Marketing Services, Inc., at 350 Dr. Fernandez St., Mandaluyong City.
6. A consumer may win only once in the raffle. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner shall get the prize in the higher prize category [(1) Educational Plan, (2) Home Improvement Plan, (3) Sari-sari Store Package].
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8. All prizes are tax-free.
9. When claiming prizes, winners will be required to present the registered mail and any 2 of the following ID's: Passport, Driver's License, Company/ School ID.
10. All winners may claim their prizes within 60 days from notification. Prizes unclaimed after the prescribed period shall be forfeited in favor of CPPI, with prior approval from DTI.
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13. Promotion is not open to any employees of CPPI, its advertising and promotional agencies, its authorized distributors, and all participating supermarkets, including their owners and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity.
14. The decision of CPPI with concurrence of DTI is final.

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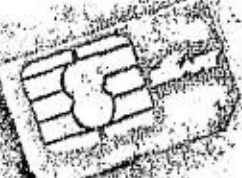
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Sunday LIFE

Amid lean times, a vision of cheer and plenty

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
PHOTOS BY LYNIE VILLACRUEL

FOR FIVE years now, people in Naga City have looked to the glowing house on Magsaysay Avenue to remind them of Christmas. Home to the Cu family, the glittery house has come to embody a comforting thought: times may be bad, but there's always Christmas.

It has become a tradition in the community, admit Allan and Gwen Cu of their passion for dressing up their house. What started as a simple gesture to cheer up young passersby at night has become a "social responsibility," says Gwen, who recalls the mounting pressure and gentle reminders from friends every time the season rolls around. This year, the hints came as early as July.

Guilty

Still in their 20s, the Cus took their cue from their bubbly 4-year-old son Carmichael Ethan who al-

ways looks forward to that time of year when his mom starts hanging Christmas lights and décor to cheer up their place. But setting the holiday season alight might well be a marital vow, too, as the Cus started indulging in this passion starting in 1997 during

AMID/p.E4

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Diamond	2.42	0.044	17.2%	10	Good

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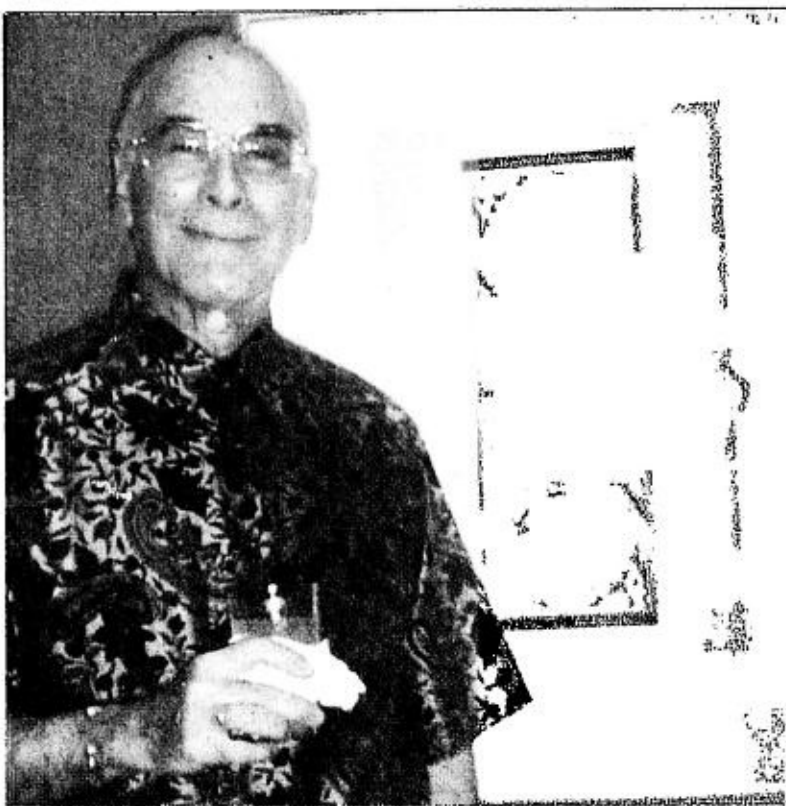
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Dec. 23 (10 am to 12 mn)

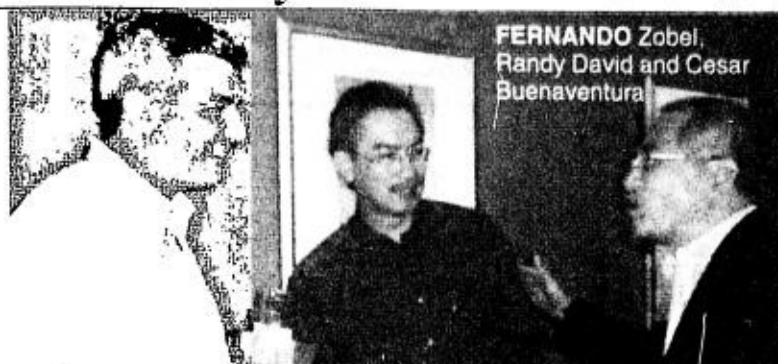
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JAIME Zobel beside one of his artworks



FERNANDO Zobel, Randy David and Cesar Buenaventura

'Zobel and Zen'

JAIME Zobel needs no introduction here and abroad. Every time the industrialist, former diplomat and photographer by avocation launches one of his exhibits or books, it is almost always a command performance. His latest artworks, titled "Zobel and Zen," opened at the ArtSpace in Glorietta a week ago to smashing success.

Most of the canvases of photography merged with digital imaging were sold out by the end of the evening, and will soon be hanging in select homes and international galleries.

Mr. Zobel's exhibit runs until the end of December.

TEESAW



Raul Teehankee



TESSIE Luz and Doris Magsaysay Ho

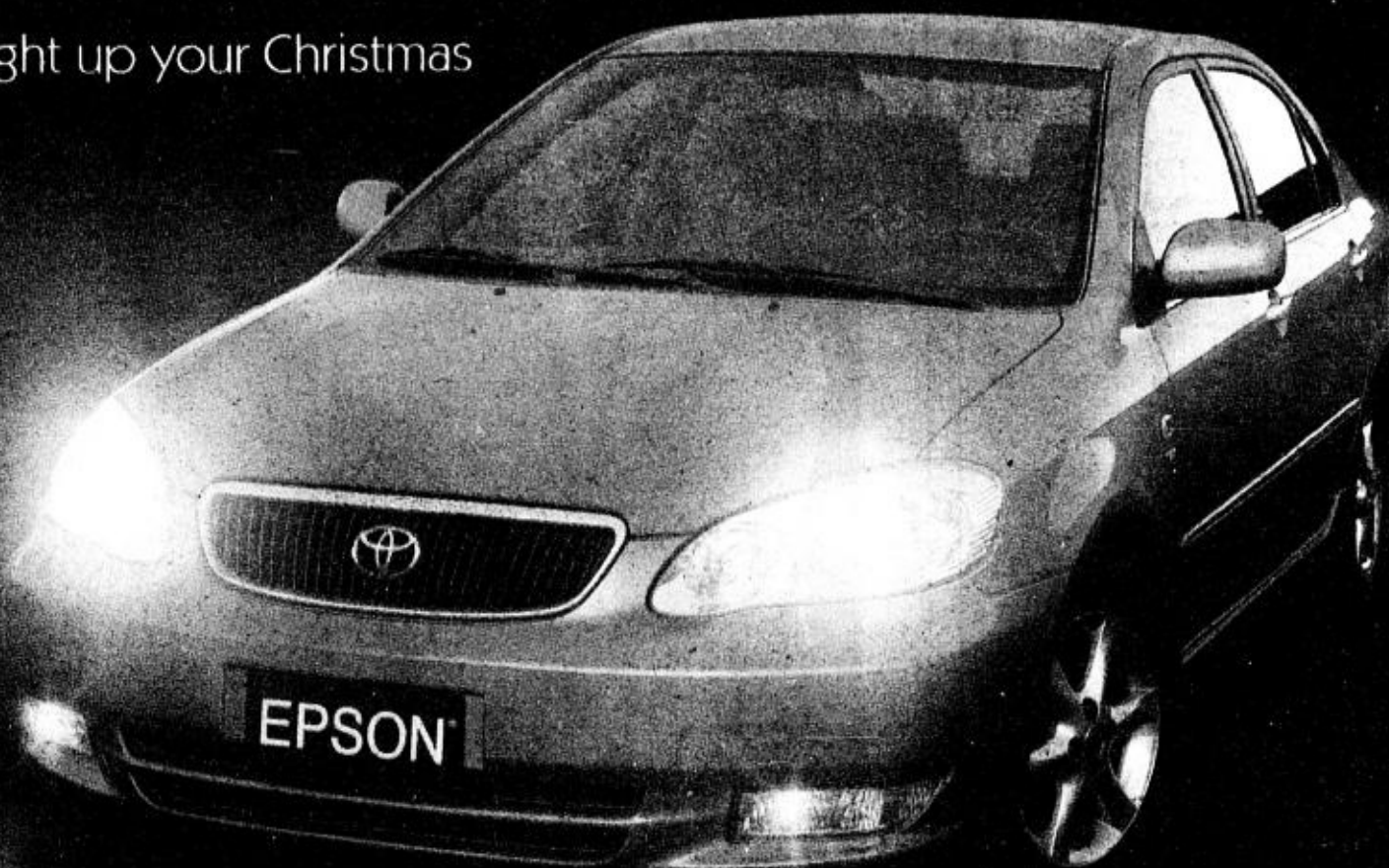


MARIBEL Ongpin with daughter Joanna Duarte



LIBET and Bubuy Virata, Karen Santos and Bea Zobel

Let EPSON light up your Christmas



MIA Borromeo and Lizzie Zobel



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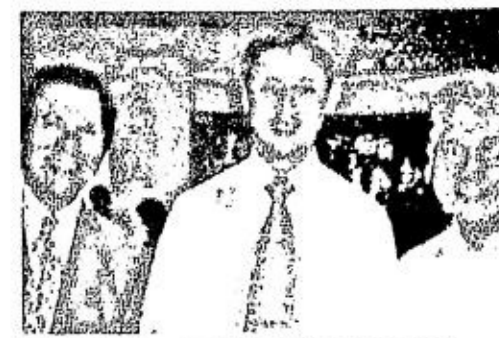
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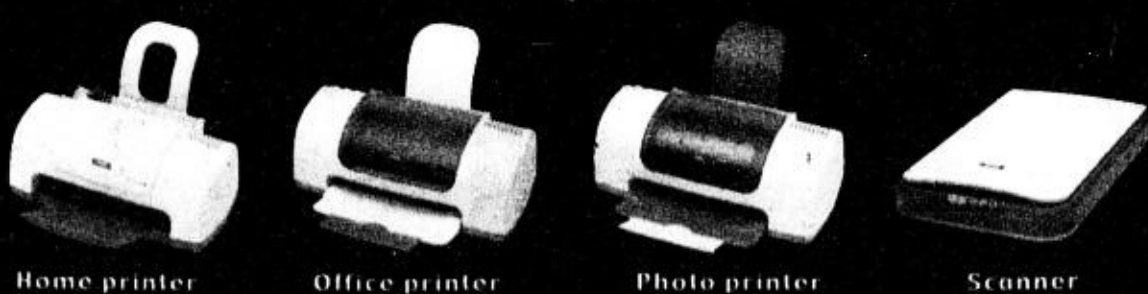
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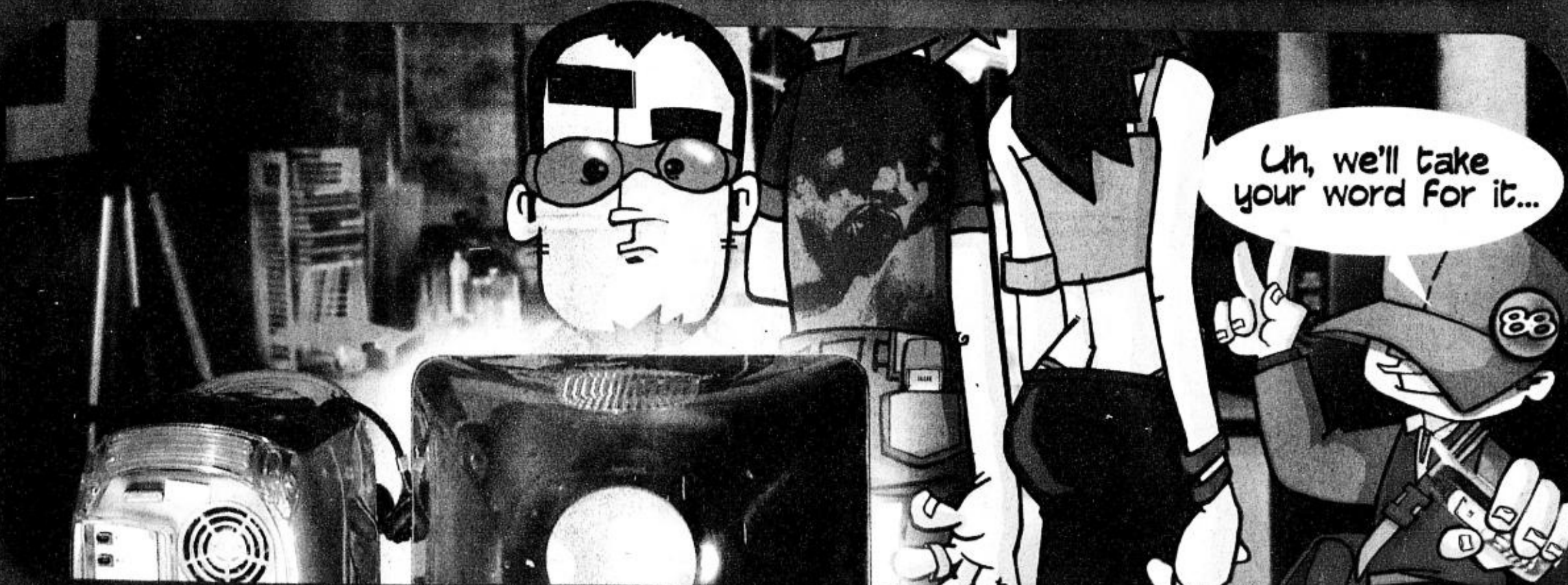
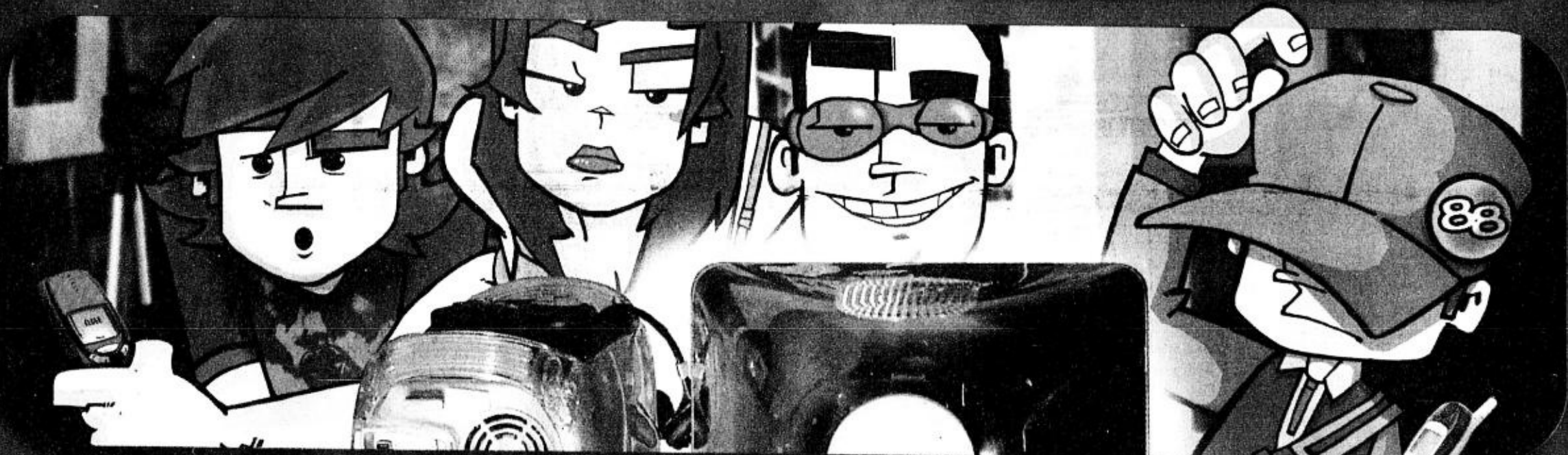
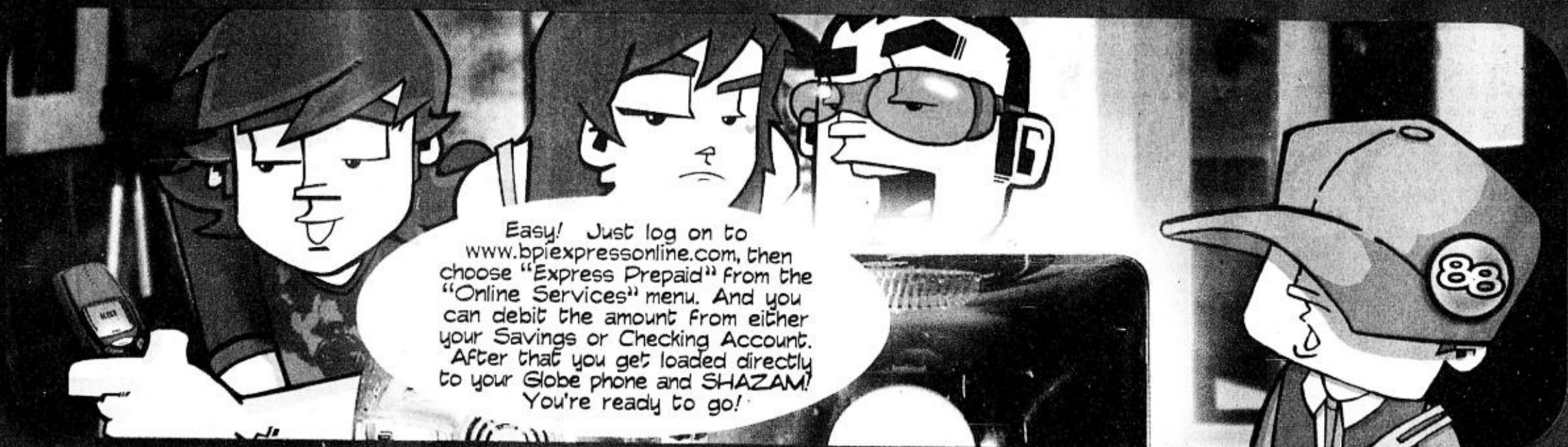
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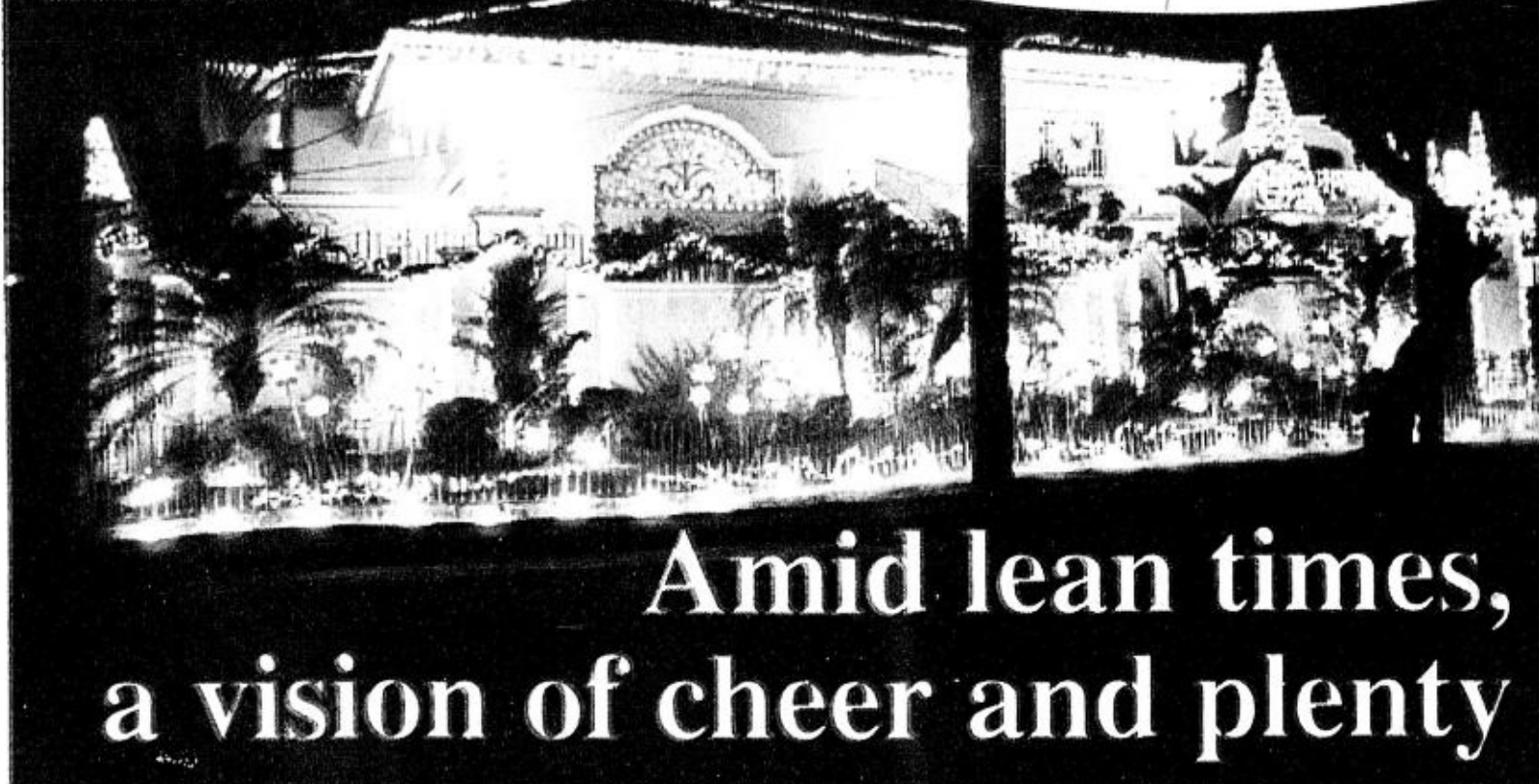
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ONE OF GLEN Passmore can't help but stop and stare at the Cu's Naga residence, which is all aglow this time of the year.

Can't stop Christmas!



Amid lean times, a vision of cheer and plenty

(From page E1)

their first Christmas as a married couple. "We will feel guilty if we don't do it," the couple says. "We've vowed to decorate our house for as long as we live if only to share a little happiness with the kids."

Gwen recalls first sprucing up for the season in 1996, the year she graduated interior design from the University of Santo Tomas. Experimenting with her mother's house, Gwen easily had her fiancé in awe over her handiwork. He promptly invited her to do his house in Naga as well. The tradition began shortly after.

"Gwen has this special talent for turning something into a work of art. And she has a knack for details," says Allan.

Not to mention a very thorough eye. Not only does Gwen dress up every corner of their house with Christmas accents, she also wraps the restrooms, the dining chairs and the chandeliers with Christmas cheer. Even the towel hanging above the washbasin has Santa's face on it. Christmas garlands festooned with shiny balls and berries and twined with organza ribbons are looped around the stairs' balustrade.

Showered with tiny white lights and sprinkled with deep red berries, the Christmas tree is an ensemble of more balls, ribbons and flowers, with tiny wreaths in different shades of gold, green, blue, lilac, violet and pink.

Long process

Decorating their house for Christmas is not a random job, however. It entails a long thought-out process that includes conceptualization, preparation, installation and presentation, says Gwen. Some of the materials she uses are sourced from the United States, like the Christmas lights and icicles, while the rest she buys from Naga, Divisoria and Rustan's. It took Gwen six days, excluding a trip to Manila to buy the stuff, to complete this year's presentation, precious working hours from the Golden-7 Bank where she is vice president for administration (Allan is the executive vice president).

Unlike previous holiday seasons when the Cus chose thematic presentations and used angels, Christmas stockings, gift boxes and fleur-de-lis leaves as their motifs, this year's décor is more eclectic. But the dominant symbols of Christmas—Santa Claus, the Snowman, a Christmas tree and two toy soldiers mounted above the gate—remain to fulfil every child's Christmas fantasy. She did surf the Net for ideas, admits Gwen, and came up with a garden-inspired presentation with three layers of lights and décor.

More than the glitz and glitter of holiday décor, however, the Cus intend to share the warmth and spirit of Christmas with homeless kids this year. "We're going to invite street children on Christmas Day and treat them to something they'd appreciate. We are now working on the details," says Allan.

Their lighted-up house may not remind people of the humble manger during that first Christmas, but for the Cus, sharing a vision of cheer and plenty during these lean times if only for some fleeting moments, is a family tradition that's worth keeping.

Even the lean times can't dim the lights that have transformed the Cu home in Naga City into a Christmas wonderland. What started as a family tradition has now become a social responsibility

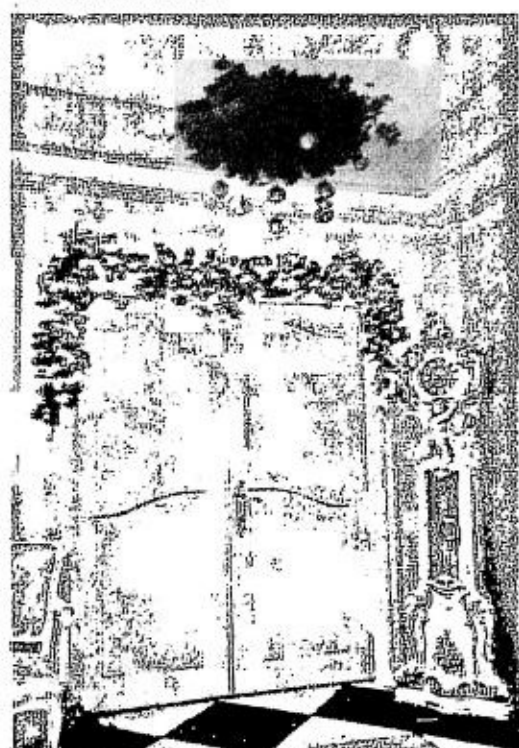
THIS chandelier is also spruced up.



SHOWERED with tiny lights and sprinkled with red berries, the Christmas tree is an ensemble of balls, organza ribbons and flowers and tiny multicolored wreaths.



THE CU family—Gwen, Allan and son Carmichael Ethan



WREATHS and garlands festoon the double door and ceiling.



DECORATIONS galore continues.



SANTA Claus, Snowman, two toy soldiers and a Christmas tree are mounted in harmony above the gate like cheerful sentinels.

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Dec. 23 1-3 pm Dreamscape
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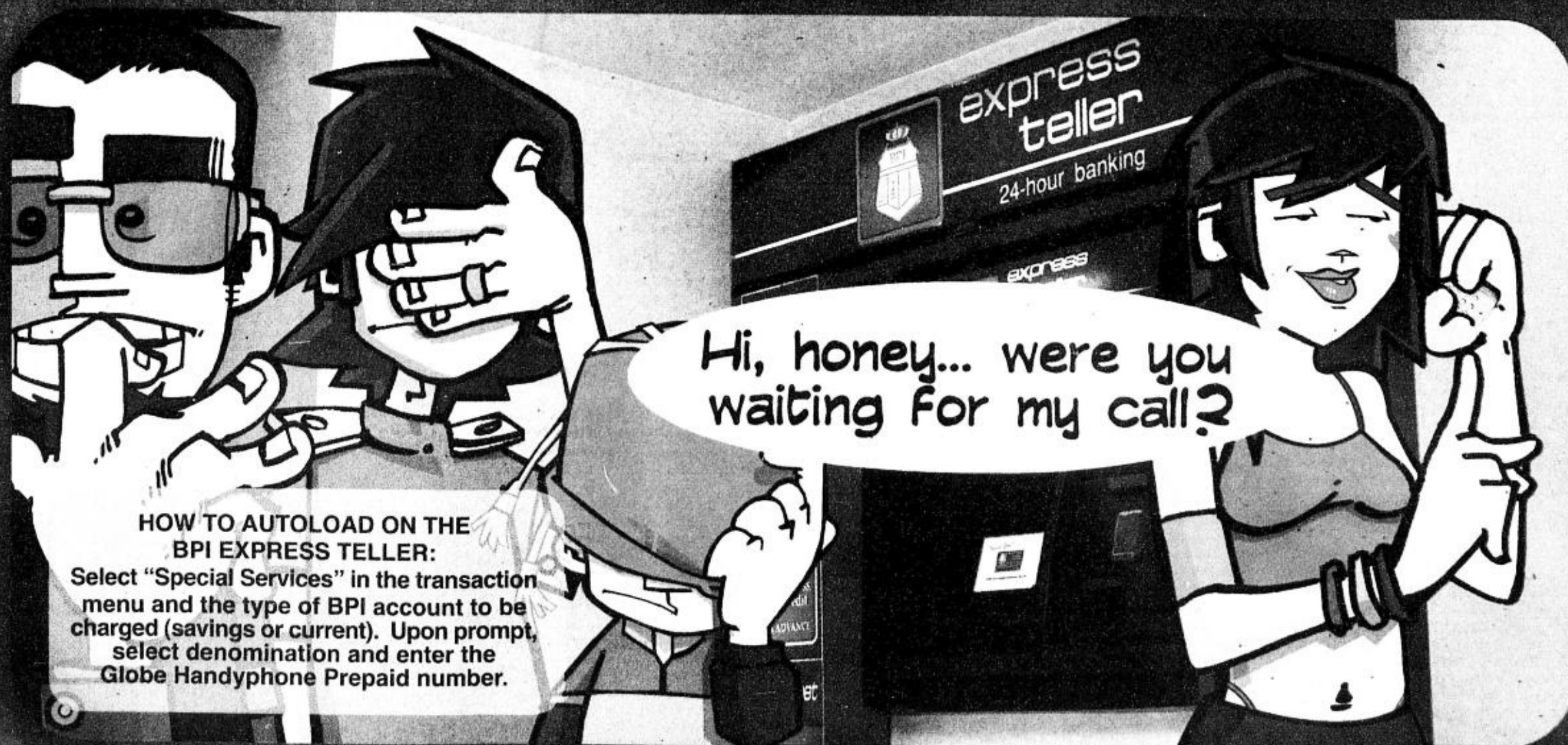


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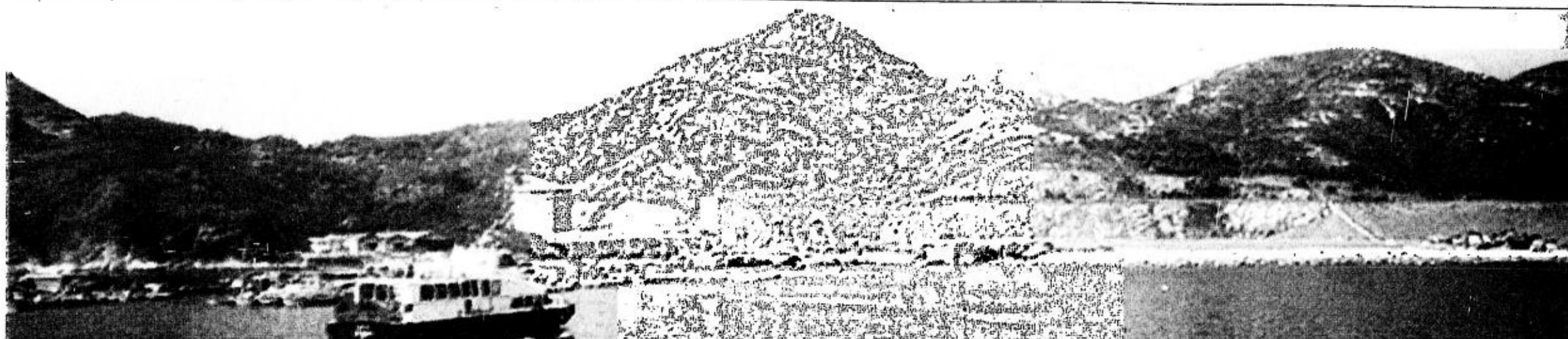
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Hong Kong

asks tourists to look beyond shopping

BY CORA LLAMAS
Contributor

VARIETY is turning out to be the spice not just of life but of the hard-earning traveler. These days, tourists are becoming more and more difficult to please, preferring to venture to the more exotic and unexplored locales and bypassing the traditional vacation spots with a "been there, done that" attitude.

That's one reason the shopping mecca in South-east Asia, and in particular the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb), is pulling out all stops to show that there's more to their city than skyscrapers, first-class hotels and the endless array of stores and market stalls, filled with all kinds of goods imaginable.

It's not that Hong Kong has anything to worry about. Although the Sept. 11 terrorist attack slowed down tourism in some areas, it managed to attract 10-12 million arrivals this year. Hotels recorded an average of 83-percent occupancy with most travelers staying in for over three nights.

Yet, as HKTb PR manager Boyd Fung bemoans, "Many of them just want to stay in the urban areas. We're encouraging them to go out to the hinterlands. They don't know that they can go hiking and picnicking in many of our areas."

It was something that we, a band of newspaper writers invited to sample Hong Kong's newest offerings for four days and three nights, were about to personally find out. According to the latest travel advisory, each of the island's 18 districts has its own set of attractions—from old temples, heritage trails, quaint villages where bullocks meander along the roadside to nature reserves and blossoming flower markets.

"We want to focus on life in the city," says Fung. "We want to emphasize the people, not just the physical attractions." Aside from the inevitable thrill of purchasing the latest gadgetry or fashion craze at affordable prices, he points out that there are "emotional benefits" from staying in the city. The upcoming exciting activities in the current "City of Life" campaign, beginning this month to February of next year, will highlight the major communities. Plans for a Chinese New Year parade, street theater and carnival and a flower extravaganza, are in the works.

Hopefully, the more wary Pinoy shopper, who's experienced the rude, brash kind of Hong Kong seller, may have reason to relax his guard. Sources within the city have reported that many hotels and store-owners have urged their people to become more warm and friendly.

Our base was the Holiday Inn Golden Mile Hotel, situated right at the heart of Kowloon's business and shopping districts on Nathan Road. Boutiques, restaurants, cyber cafes, money exchange centers and stalls where quality goods can easily be haggled were only a few minutes' walk. My personal all-time fave, though, was HMV, a real treat for music and movie lovers. The building devoted all its four stories to CDs, VCDs and DVDs. A tour of the place, which could take hours, will reward you with reasonably priced sound and film discs that can't be found in Manila: concerts, musicals, classical and contemporary, the latest hits, rarities and even long-forgotten oddballs that quickly evoke nostalgia ("Boy in the Plastic Bubble," anyone?).

History

The main highlight of the first day was the Museum of History. The two-hour tour was literally a walk into the corridors of time as we relived the events and people that built Hong Kong. This was not your usual display of photographs. The hallways housed giant dioramas of gods and heroes, makeshift houses with a bridge or two, and even life-size carriages. Each hallway depicted particular time-lines, all arranged chronologically. Tourists can step into the precolonial red wooden huts, experiencing how to show respect by lifting their feet high with each step.

One of the more interesting eras was the post-WWII rebuilding. Carved into the museum halls were small, one-room houses that only had a couple of beds and one chair for a family of five. Along this walkway, complete with antiquated but accurate para-



NIGHTLIFE view from the peak



THE GOLDEN Bauhinia Sculpture, a gift from China

phernalia were a dentist's office, a store and a barber-shop, all of them barely furnished but for the necessary modest equipment. It was certainly revealing of the city's humble beginnings.

On the way back to the hotel, we passed by the Expo Promenade. Its centerpiece attraction, one of the city's most popular, is the Golden Bauhinia Sculpture. The gleaming flower-like artwork was a special gift from the People's Republic of China to commemorate the establishment of the HK Special Administrative Region.

Radical hiking

Day two was the hiking day, certainly a radical departure from the cosmopolitan hustle-bustle. Fortunately, the 30-minute ferry ride to Lamma Island, the home of traditional Chinese food shops, started with a filling lunch at the Rainbow Seafood Restaurant overlooking the harbor. After stuffing ourselves with sautéed prawns, boneless fish that tasted like meat and exquisite lobsters, we started the long way to the other side of the island.

Trodding nonstop on this fine, narrow pavement that went up and across the island's mountain took about a couple of hours. On your left side was the rising slope, before you were trees and bushes, and on your right was a splendid view of the harbor, the blue expanse of lake and the sight of another mountain peak. The halfway point was a little beach, conveniently equipped with toilets. Not too far was a stall that quickly washed away the thirst of weary travelers with the HK equivalent of Zagu. The trek eventually ended with the road back to port, decorated on both sides by more stores selling cheap goods.

Based on firsthand experience, though, the Lamma Island hike is not recommended for those who are seriously amiss with their physical exercise. Twenty

minutes into the walk, with many of us huffing and puffing, drove home the point. A few sore muscles the next couple of days really made me seriously rethink my computerized sedentary lifestyle. However, seasoned joggers, hiking fans, health aficionados or even just the physically fit are certain to love the cool air, the sunshine and what may seem to them a leisurely pace.

Fortunately, there were more relaxing heights to explore. Dinner plans had us racing to the top of the Peak Tower, a seven-story leisure edifice that has Ripley's "Believe It or Not" Museum and Madame Tussaud's waterworks. Ascent up the Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail was via a train or MTR, which still amazingly looked and acted like a modern fast bullet transport, though it was first built during the early part of the century.

Many people go to the Peak, though, for its stunning view of the city's nightlife. A vantage point up on the roof showed a sweeping panorama of steel skyscrapers made dazzling by an array of glittering lights. It is a must, though, to bring a thick jacket or sweater. The extremely chilly air easily beats the coldest season in Baguio. It took only a couple of minutes before my teeth started to chatter.

Another fascinating structure that pays tribute to HK ingenuity and foresight was the 19th-century Murray House. The former residence of one Lord Stanley has been converted to a shopping and dining center, with its colonial-like architecture carefully preserved. First built in 1844, it was dismantled in 1982 to make way for the China Bank Tower. Curiously, though, the blocks were not thrown away but stored in a warehouse. In 1998, each numbered stone was brought out, piece by piece, to reassemble the Murray House.

The last historical site we visited was the Chi Lin Nunnery, a Buddhist institution founded in the 1930s.



BUDDHIST monasticism in the Chi Lin Nunnery

There's more to the Crown Colony than malls and markets—old temples, heritage trails, nature reserves and quaint villages where bullocks meander along the roadside



SHOPPING, still the center of lifestyle

It recently went through a significant redevelopment project to construct a monastery complex based on the architecture of the Tang Dynasty.

Of course, noncommercial attractions aside, there is always the nonstop shopping lifestyle—and in Hong Kong, there are various ways to do it, from Times Square, a multilevel shopping complex, to Stanley Market, a mini maze of clothes, toys, bags, shoes, electronic gadgetry and other gift items, to the Night Markets, their equivalent of Divisoria where you can haggle.

The rule in shopping, according to our trusted guide, is not to buy first. Go through each store slowly, resist the temptation and just take note of the things that interest you until you reach the end. Afterward, you'll find that you've made a useful inventory where you can easily cross off duplicates and take a second look at choices.

"Just make sure you're together," he advised us. "Keep close. And do not sling your knapsack or bag behind you. Always keep them in front."

Coming from the Philippines, we certainly knew how to watch our backs.

For more information, visit www.DiscoveryHongkong.com



BARGAIN stalls on way back to port



THE HALFWAY point of Lamma Island hike

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LLANTADA-NUVAL

The right chemistry for romance

Story on page F4

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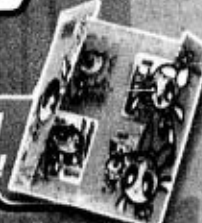
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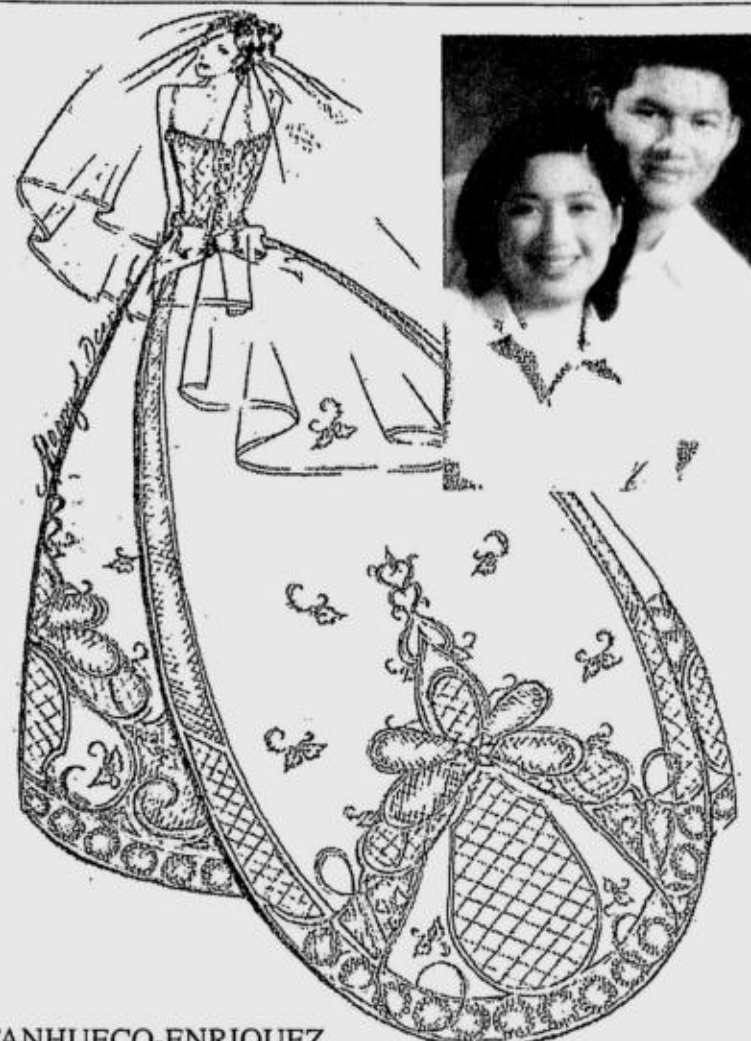
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Milestones

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DOLORIDO-CULANDING

Edwin Dolorido and Ella Culanding wed on Nov. 17 at St. Francis de Assisi Church, Gen. Trias, Cavite. Reception followed at the bride's residence. The groom is an engineer based abroad while the bride is a senior human resource generalist in a multinational company in Makati City.



TANHUECO-ENRIQUEZ

Ma. Carmela Enriquez, daughter of Mr. and Ms Antonio Enriquez, will walk down the aisle of the Holy Cross Parish Church, Clarkfield Pampanga to wed Arturo Tanhueco Jr., son of Mr. and Ms Arturo Tanhueco Sr., on Dec. 19. The bride will wear a spaghetti-strapped bouffant gown in *jusi* material in callado and embroideries sprinkled with caviar and Swarovski crystal rhinestones. A detachable long train highlights the creation by Manny Dizon Ocampo.



SALOSA-GABAT

Gideon Madrigal-Salosa will exchange marriage vows with Raquel de Guzman-Gabat on Dec. 18. Heading the guest list are the couple's parents, Daniel and Myrna Salosa and Geronimo and Myrna Gabat. Reception will be held at the Max's Restaurant-Biñan.

KIMWELL-ESCALA

Lito M. Kimwell, son of Lydia G. Makalintal vda. de Kimwell, and Angie V. Escala, daughter of Angelita R. Vitas vda de Escala, will tie the knot today at the Basilica de San Martin de Tours (Taal Church) in Taal, Batangas. Reception will follow at the Escuela Pia.

EDAÑO-TUPAS

Dennis Eamilao Edaño, son of Honorio Jr. and Emma Edaño of Masinloc, Zambales, will wed Joyce Mendoza Tupas, daughter of Jose and Violeta Tupas of Quezon City, on Dec. 18 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception will follow at the ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza.

The bride will wear an O'Dick Naputo design in fine, soft silk material, with two long embroidered trains. The entourage will wear ensembles in sunset motif.

The couple met when they were undergraduates at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. The groom, a graduate of the UP College of Law, is an associate at the Siguion-Reyna, Montecillo and Ongsiako Law Office. The bride, a graduate of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila College of Medicine, is undergoing her residency in internal medicine at the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center.



SANTOS-ROMASANTA

Redy Santos, son of Lucia Bindoy Jose vda. de Santos, and Rowena Romasanta, daughter of Roberta Gulay Bayron vda. de Romasanta, will tie the knot on today at St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. Reception will follow at the grand ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila, Makati City.



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wee wees

you a Merry Christmas...

wee wees

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THE NEWLYWEDS with Billy's mom and Grasya's dad. "Mommy was very helpful in making my dream wedding come true," Grasya says.

The ad campaign that nearly everyone has fallen in love with ends in a celebration of love and romance



MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING. Billy's best friend Joey, who was best man, admits, "Now that I've come to know Grasya a lot better, I understand why Billy fell in love with her."

At last, Billy weds Grasya

It was the dream celebration that many people were looking forward to. Billy and Grasya, the young couple whose romance blossomed in faraway New York, were finally wed one clear and cool December evening at a picturesque church somewhere in Makati.

Friends and relations gathered to see the culmination of what started out as a series of concerned phone calls from a protective and sometimes overzealous mother in Manila to her favorite son who was working in New York. In one of her long-distance calls to Billy, Mommy discovered that there was another woman in her beloved son's life—Grasya, a half-Filipino preschool teacher.

Flourishing romance

Despite several attempts to slow down Billy and Grasya's romance (Mommy even encouraged Billy's ex-girlfriends to call him up in the United States), the young couple's relationship flourished. When they finally decided to tie the



THE COUPLE with their entourage



GRASYA and Billy hope to continue to enjoy themselves with lots of quality time together.

knot, Billy brought Grasya to the Philippines to formally meet his widowed mother. Finally won over by Grasya's physical and inner beauty, it was Mommy who eventually became more excited about the wedding and proved to be more meticulous in supervising the minutest details of the preparations. She was also eager to meet Grasya's amiable widower father, who came to give away his dating daughter to a young man he considered to be "a wonderful son-in-law."

After the wedding, relatives and friends rushed to offer the young couple their congratulations and take a second closer look at the girl who stole Billy's heart.

"My marriage to Billy is everything I've ever wished for," Grasya gushed with a starry look in her eyes. "He is incredibly sweet and loving. He's smart and hardworking, and always has a positive outlook. I especially admire him for his great love and respect for his mother and solid Filipino values. I have no doubt we'll have a happy life together."

Billy could only glance adoringly at his blushing bride while saying, "Grasya is a very beautiful and special woman. She had qualities I've never seen in anyone else. I know she's the right person for me, and I'm trying very hard to be the kind of man she would like to spend the rest of her life with. She picks me up when I am down, and she's even happier about any good fortune that comes my way. I think marrying her is my greatest fortune. *Talagang siya ang Grasya ng buhay ko* (She is really the greatest blessing in my life.)."

Popular ad campaign

Among the more popular characters that Philippine advertising has spawned in recent years are Billy and Grasya. Millions of Filipino viewers have become avid followers of the saga revolving around the lives and telephone conversations of boy-next-door Billy, a budding stock broker in New York, his overprotective mother in Manila, and the Fil-American girl, Grasya, who captured Billy's heart.

Brought to life by telecommunications giant PLDT and its advertising agency Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, the "Hello Billy" television and print campaign were developed to promote PLDT's International Direct Dial Service (IDD). The series used humor, everyday situations and true-to-life characters to bring to fore traditional Filipino values and the importance of preserving the family.

Grasya and Billy's dream "wedding" brings to a gratifying and romantic close the larger-than-life advertising campaign that has piqued the interest and captivated the imagination of the public for the past year.



THE MINUTEST wedding details were discussed across the miles through telephone calls between the couple and Billy's mom. "It's a good thing that PLDT charges only 40 cents a minute for overseas calls. I was able to call them up about the wedding preparations several times a week and not worry about a huge telephone bill to add to the wedding budget."



GRASYA tries to ease her father's jitters. "They say all brides are beautiful on their wedding day. Well, I say my little girl is probably the most stunning bride I have ever seen."



THE NEWLYWEDS with maid of honor Aileen Go and best man Julius Llantada. Bridesmaids Mary Ann Sia, Anniebee Yap and Vera Andrei Orcino and other members of the bridal entourage



WITH THE BRIDE'S mom, Dolores Laureaga vda. de Nuval, and sisters Elizabeth, Lilygrace, Catherine and brother Emerson. Also in photo are brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews



WITH THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS. (From left, seated): Nita del Rosario, Adela Cases, Cynthia Yap, Dr. Patricia Lao, Elisa Buan, Remedios Gregorio, and a proxy of Judge Rizalina Vergel de Dios; (standing, from left): Hon. Roberto Francisco, Rev. Salik Sinkiat, engineer Jose Limuaco, engineer Jaime Blanco, Leoncio Yap, lawyer Ernesto Salunat, Aristeo Abalos and Abel Ulanday

The right chemistry for romance

BY LEAH SALTERIO

ANG saya-saya ko ngayong araw na 'to! (I am very happy today!)"

This is what groom Edward Llantada told his guests as he welcomed them to his garden wedding last Nov. 18.

It was obviously the happiest moment for Edward. He exchanged "I dos" with his pretty bride, Venus Marie Nuval, in an open-air, late-afternoon ceremony at Puerta Real Gardens in Intramuros.

Although both from the north—he is from Solsona, Ilocos Norte, while she is from Balaoan, La Union—Edward and Venus were fated to meet in Manila. They were arranged to meet in a blind date by Edward's sister, Brite, who is Venus' co-teacher at Chiang Kai Shek College in Binondo.

"I was supposed to meet her in a wedding in 1999 when I escorted my sister," Edward recalls. "But she didn't show up. What I did was I got her address and I went to her house days later."

The courtship started as Edward shuttled between Makati and Monumento, just to see Venus who is a chemistry teacher at Chiang Kai Shek. He knew then he was the girl for him.

"Almost every night, I would go to her house," Edward relates. "She looks like she's one of us because she looks like my niece and my sister. Even before she became my girlfriend, I had this feeling she was the right girl for me."

Venus, however, admitted she was not initially attracted to her husband. It took her more than a year before she said yes to a serious relationship.

"I wanted to make sure I really loved him before I even said yes to him as my boyfriend," she says. "When he was still courting me, I would sleep while he waited in the living room. If I was lazy to go out of the room, I would make him wait while he watched TV. I should have made him pay for our Meralco bill."

But Edward's perseverance paid off.

"He was really very patient and kind," Venus notes. "I didn't want to play with his feelings. If I would answer him, I wanted it for the long haul. *Direto na talaga hanggang kasal.* One Sunday, I woke up and I immediately thought of him. I realized he was really the man for me."

Edward and Venus became sweethearts on Christmas 2000. That early, they both knew they were really altar-bound.

"At our age, we were both looking for a partner in life, so alam mo'ng hindi na lokohan. Serious na talaga," Edward says.

Lucky number

It didn't take long before they started planning for their wedding. Venus says the original schedule they chose was Oct. 28.

"But since it was a garden wedding, we didn't want to sacrifice the event in case it rained," she says. "Edward wanted the date with an '8' because it's lucky. So the next available date that we chose was Nov. 18."

Edward and Venus sealed their vows in a Protestant wedding ceremony graced by 350 guests. Officiating minister was Rev. Mariano Apilado.

The eight pairs of principal sponsors included the couple's relatives, friends, fellow office workers and members of Cosmopolitan Church along Taft Avenue, where Venus regularly attends the Sunday worship service. They were Rev. Salik Sinkiat, Roberto Francisco, lawyer Ernesto Salunat, Abel Ulanday, Leoncio Yap, Aristeo Abalos, engineer Jose Limuaco, engineer Jaime Blanco, Judge Rizalina Vergel de Dios, Maria Rosete, Elisa Buan, Nita del Rosario, Dr. Patricia Lao, Remedios Gregorio, Adela Cases and Virginia Fajardo.

The bride wore a gown by Dovie from Malabon, who also created the gowns of the entourage in deep red wine and matte gold.

The groom, as well as his best man and usher, were handsome in their coat and tie.

Venus walked down the aisle not to the tune of a bridal march, but to Gary Valenciano's revival hit, "I Will Be Here." The song conveys the promise to a special someone that despite the darkest hours, he will be by her side.

"Tomorrow morning when you wake up and the sun does not appear, I will be here. If in the dark we lose sight of love, hold my hand and have no fear, I will be here."

"I will be here when you feel like being quiet, when you need to speak your mind, I will listen. And I will be here, when the laughter turns to crying, through the winning, losing and trying, we'll be together, 'cause I will be here."



WITH THE GROOM'S mother, Adelaida Tolentino vda. de Llantada, sisters Brite, Clarita and Florence, brothers Johnny, Alejandro and William and other relatives

Kind and simple ways

Edward, who is a copy monitor at the editorial room of the Inquirer, was attracted to Venus, a BS Biology graduate from UP Baguio, because of her kind and simple ways.

"Aside from the fact that she is Ilocana, she is kind and hardworking," he says. "She is never strict. She allows me to do what I want."

He is also drawn to her cooking and swears that

her *pinakbet* is his favorite.

The couple enjoys mall and eating out. However, Edward says he prefers to wait for her when she takes long hours to shop.

"Even if his feet are aching, he would wait for me. He hardly complains," Venus says.

"Sometimes she's *makulit*, that's what I don't like about her," Edward grants.

But Venus counters, "I guess it's the teacher in me. I just want to make sure he follows my instruc-



tions. But Edward is kind. He believes what I tell him. Trust is important in any relationship."

Today, Venus confesses she still has to get used to the life of a married woman. "*Nakakapanibago pa rin* when I say I'm already married," she says.

Venus, the fourth in a brood of six children, walked down the aisle with her mother, Dolores Laureaga vda. De Nuval and her brother-in-law Benito Fernando Perez.

Edward, the second to the youngest in a brood of nine, was escorted by his mother, Adelaida Tolentino vda. de Llantada and his older brother, Juan.

Edward is no Gary Valenciano when it comes to crooning a ballad, but the groom certainly chose the perfect song for her promise to his bride.

"Tomorrow morning when you wake up and the future is unclear, I will be here. As sure as seasons are made for change, our lifetimes are made for years, so I will be here."

"I will be here, you can cry on my shoulder, when the mirror tells us we're older, I will hold you. And I will be here, to watch you grow in beauty and tell you all the things you are to me..."

"I will be true to the promise I have made, to you and to the One who gave you to me."

WITH PDI publisher Isagani Yambot

UFC TAMIS-ANGHANG BANANA CATSUP.

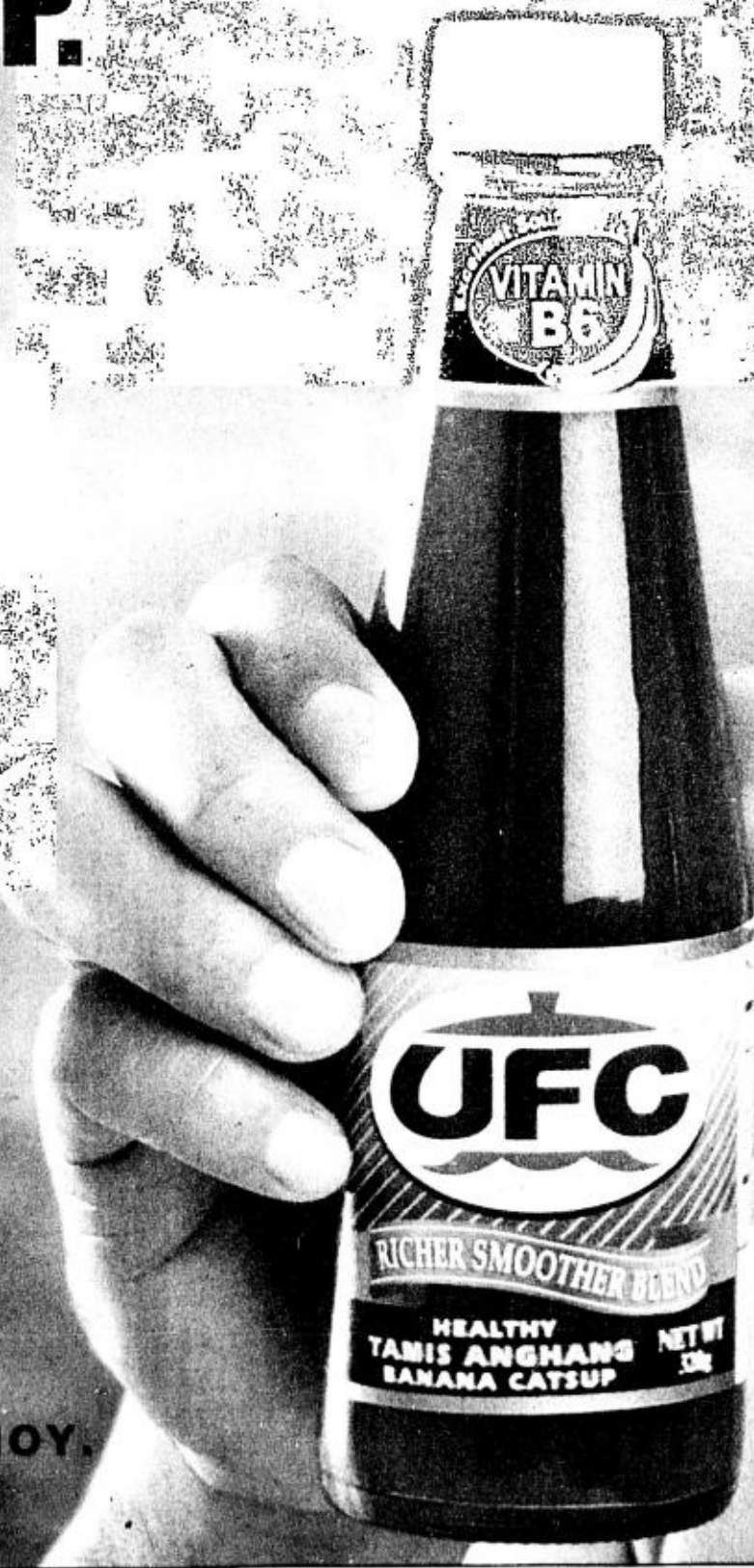
ANG TOTOONG CATSUP NG PINOY.

Signature

NO. 1 SA TAHANAN.
30 TAON NANG NASA PUSO NG PINOY.



EDWARD and Venus Llantada



my lucky the whale!



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or **ILANIN BAY TERRACE**. **OCEAN TREASURES** for gifts & souvenirs. And many more attractions! Our all-weather facilities let you enjoy the park anyday, rain or shine. Open daily: 9am - 6pm. General Admission: P400. Children (below 12 years old) and senior citizens: P320. Children 30 in & below - **FREE!** Tickets are also available at any TicketWorld outlet.

HOW TO GET THERE FROM MANILA: Take exit 66 (San Fernando) from the North Luzon Expressway. Proceed toward Olongapo City. Turn right at Layac, Bataan. Turn left on TIPO Road Expressway to enter SBMA. Follow the expressway and turn right on Rizal Ave. Make a left on Argonaut Highway. Go past Subic Bay Int'l. Airport and FedEx head office all the way up to Naval Magazine gate, follow the Ocean Adventure/Camayan Wharf/Miracle Beach road signs. Follow the road to the right approx. 5kms. to the Ocean Adventure gate. For more info, please call (047) 252 9000 / 252 5880 up to 82.

Ocean Adventure is a Division of Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium, Inc., Camayan Wharf, West Ilanin Forest Area, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Milestones

ALEJANDRO-PASCUA

Fides Pascua, daughter of Mr. and Ms Fernando Pascua, will exchange marital vows with Egay Alejandro, son of Mr. and Ms Ernesto Alejandro, on Dec. 18 at Our Lady of Remedies Church, Malate. Eric Pineda designed a ballerina-inspired bridal gown in ivory shantung silk. The bodice is sprinkled with caviar beads, faux pearls and sequins. The skirt is made of multiple layers of illusion tulle with handmade ivory and lilac butterfly pins. The entourage will wear gowns in ivory and lilac crepe with the butterfly as the wedding's leitmotif. Reception will follow at Father Blanco's Garden, Intramuros.



Pinda '2001



RAMOS-PINZA

Ma. Josefa C. Pinza, daughter of Ricaredo and Perla Pinza, will tie the knot with Edward Anthony B. Ramos, son of Eduardo S. Ramos and lawyer Erlinda B. Ramos, on Dec. 18 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will be held at San Agustin Plaza, Intramuros, Manila. The bride will wear an Ernie Villamin creation.



TAN-TRANI

Sharon Trani, daughter of Edgar and Ednia Trani, will wed Robert Tan, son of Anastacio and Bernarda Tan, on Dec. 19 at Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish Church. Reception follows at Jade Vine Hotel and Restaurant.

The bride will wear a gown with a fluted fabric at the bosom adorned with beadwork by Junel Gallon. The back is highlighted with a cabbage rose inserted at the low-back draping that will also hold the chapel-length train. The entourage will be in ensembles in silver-blue motif by Pacion Canencia. Gallon also created the wedding accessories, favors and flower arrangement.

AGBUYA-SILLOCO

Grace Silloco and Edward Agbuya will tie the knot on Dec. 18 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will follow at the Lotus Garden, Ermita, Manila.



HANGAD DEBUT

Margarita Louie Hangad, daughter of Jose and Celia Hangad, will celebrate her 18th birthday at the Diamond Ballroom, Manila Diamond Hotel, on Dec. 19. Leonard Co designed for the debutante an elegant tangerine bustier corset gown with full bouffant petticoat skirt, made with shantung. It is beaded with cut glass and Swarovski flower stones and accented with handpainted floral designs.



QUE DEBUT

Aizza Camille Tusit Que, daughter of Rene Que and the late Teresita T. Que, will mark her 18th birthday on Dec. 18 at Sulo Hotel. The debutant will wear a Claro Yango creation.



Pain and risk: All part of love

IN GOING over my e-mail, I chanced upon this beautiful letter. I want to share this with all those who have loved and been hurt, those who haven't loved at all, and those who are just about to discover the beauty of this moving experience.

LOVE NOTES



Joe D' Mango

really love someone when you want him or her to be happy, even if his/her happiness means not being part of it.

"Everything happens for the best. If the person you love doesn't love you back, don't be afraid to love someone else again; you'll never know if it will be returned unless you give it a try. You never really loved unless you risk for it.

"Love strives and grows in hurting. If you don't get hurt, you don't learn how to love.

"Love doesn't hurt all the time. The hurting is there to test you and help you grow. You cannot finish a book without closing its chapters. To move on, you have to leave the past in the same way you turn the pages.

"Love is not destroyed by a single failure or won by a single caress. It is a lifetime venture wherein we are always learning, discovering

"In thinking of your past love, you may view it as a failure. But when you find a new one, you suddenly see this failure as a teacher. In the game of love, it doesn't really matter who won or who lost. What is important is you know when to hold on and when to let go! You know you



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

and growing.

"Love's greatest irony is letting go when you need to hold on and/or holding on when you need to let go. Loving people means giving them the freedom to choose whom and where they want to be, regardless whether those choices lead toward or away from you.

"We lose someone we love only when we are destined to find someone else who can love us even more than we can love ourselves.

"Don't find love, let love find you. That's why it's called 'falling in love' because you don't force yourself to fall. You just fall.

"In falling out of love, take some time to heal and then get back on the horse. But don't make the same mistake of riding the same one that first threw you.

Reaching out and rejections

"Reaching for another risks involvement. To expose your feelings is to expose your true self.

"Loving again risks rejections, in the same

If you're not ready to cry, take risks, to feel the pain—then you're not ready to fall in love

way that life risks death and hope risks failure. But risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is risking—and reaching for—nothing!

"How to define love? It means falling but not stumbling, being constant but not too persistent, sharing and never being unfair, understanding and trying not to demand—and hurting without keeping the pain.

"Love is like a knife. It can stab the heart or carve into the soul wonderful images that last for a lifetime. It can hurt your heart, fill you with desire and tear you apart.

"Love should inspire you and give you joy and strength. Though the very things that do so can also hurt you in the end. For all the heartaches and tears, the gloomy days and fruitless years—give thanks, for these were the things which helped you grow.

"Love requires that certain risks be taken, no matter how scary or painful. Only then will you experience the fullness of your humanity.

"If you're not ready to cry, take risks, to feel the pain—then you're not ready to fall in love.

"When you decide to love, allow it to grow and refuse to let it die!"

E-mail the author at his new address: dearjoe@lovenotes.fm or visit www.lovenotes.fm

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS FOR CHARITY

AYALA CENTER MAKATI

VERNIE VARGA & KATRINA

Dec. 12, Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation

APQ HIKING SOCIETY & KIDS

Dec. 13, Beneficiary: Bahay Maria

CALVIN MILLADO, BITUIN ESCALANTE & THE CAST OF RENT MANILA

Dec. 14, Beneficiary: DSWD NCR through Destiny Cable

VINA MORALES

Dec. 15, Beneficiary: Make-A-Wish Foundation

ZSA ZSA PADILLA

Dec. 16, Beneficiary: Child and Youth Welfare Program

KUH LEDESMA & ISABELLA

Dec. 17, Beneficiary: Mango Tree House

GARY VALENCIANO

Dec. 18, Beneficiary: UNICEF

OGIE ALCASID

Dec. 19, Beneficiary: GMA Foundation

RACHEL & HAJJI ALEJANDRO

Dec. 20, Beneficiary: World Vision

CRIS VILLONCO & THE COMPANY

Dec. 21, Beneficiary: Bantay Bat 163

MARTIN NIEVERA

Dec. 22, Beneficiary: CENTEX

All concerts at the Glorietta Activity Center, 6pm.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

VINA MORALES

Dec. 14, Activity Center 4pm
Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation

AYALA CENTER CEBU

DONNA CRUZ

Dec. 15, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: Children's Shelter for Cebu

THE COMPANY

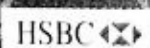
Dec. 16, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: Christ for Asia Foundation

THE UNFORGETTABLES

Dec. 23, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: SOS Children's Village

Catch the Fireworks Show in Ayala Malls.
See flyers for details.

Sponsors:



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Bowling and billiards center offers discounts

THE POWER Plant Mall in Rockwell Center has extended its mall hours from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. every day until Dec. 30. But last-minute Christmas Eve shoppers and New Year's Eve revelers will have until 8 p.m. to enjoy the mall and all the festivities.

Power Bowl, Power Plant's state-of-the-art bowling and billiards center, offers special discounted rates until Dec. 31. Players can enjoy bowling on 26 high-performance lanes for as low as P60 per game per person on Mondays to

Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Afternoon special rates from 12-5 p.m. are offered at P80 on weekdays and P100 on weekends. Evening special rates from 9 p.m. to closing are just as low. Billiard rates have also been reduced to as much as P100 per hour for the nonsmoking area and kids' tables.

If you have resolved to learn bowling this coming year, then reserve now for the Learn-to-Bowl Clinic of National Youth Team Coach Bonnie Solis. The

clinic starts Dec. 26-30, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Power Bowl at 898-1624.

Power Bowl features glow tracks for extreme bowling, durabowl bumpers for kids and beginners, ultramodern pinspotter machines and computerized, user-friendly scoring grid as well as an adjoining section for billiard games with 17 AMP tables. Power Bowl is also equipped with a light and sound system for a real party atmosphere during special events.

World Famous Bottle Exclusively Available at Duty Free Philippines

When you talk about creating a classic bottle of Dimple Scotch whisky you will learn that there's more than meets the connoisseur's discriminating eye and taste. This superb deluxe Scotch with its unique triangular bottle is the most instantly recognizable whisky in the world and was the first ever bottle to be patented. But it is more interesting to know that it takes 15 years to create a bottle of Dimple, which follows a to-the-letter recipe of more than 400 years old! This makes the history and heritage of Dimple Scotch whisky 15 Years Old as rich as its renowned flavor and character.

The Dimple Timeline of Quality

Dimple is the oldest Scotch whisky which spans a 400-year history. A legacy of Scotland's Haig Family, the Dimple traces back to the family's oldest distiller Robert Haig in 1665. In 1782, his great-great grandson James, at the age of 27, opened a distillery at Canonmills, Edinburgh and became the champion of 'respectable' large-scale distilling against the cook-and-run methods of illicit distillers of the Highlands. Around 1870, John Haig was the first Haig to use the newly developed practice of blending.

The Haigs had a long tradition in distilling, and it was that deep understanding of the product that enabled them to take blending to its perfection.

Dimple in a Unique Triangular Bottle

The outstanding quality of Dimple has been bottled in the famous triangular bottle, which is often referred to as the Dimple "decanter". Its unique shape has inspired artists and craftsmen the world over and is often used decoratively, once its contents have been savored.

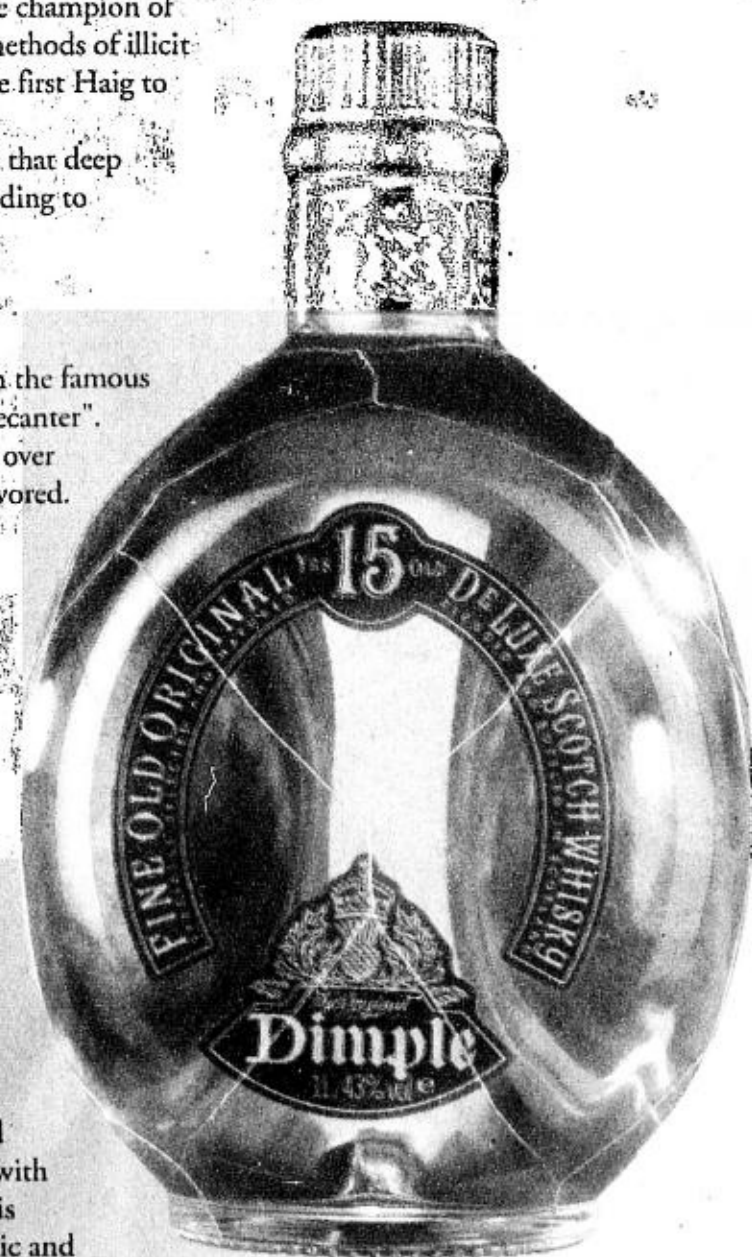
Another decorative feature of the Dimple bottle is its unusual wire net cover. Its application was both an expensive and complex exercise - handmade in France and Spain and then shipped to Scotland to be hand-applied on the bottle. This is indicative of the devoted attention given to making Dimple Scotch whisky.

The Dimple Quality and Taste

Dimple is a uniquely crafted, precious and exclusive deluxe Scotch whisky. The blend is perfection itself not only in terms of its taste but also of its blending process. It is 50% aged in carefully selected American and European oak casks and comprises of more than 30 different ingredient whiskies - one of the very few deluxe blends based on a lowland malt called Glenkinchie.

A Dimple 15 Year Old's taste is well-rounded, rich and has a complex character with a hint of spice. Its nose is rich with a delicate hint of peatiness and is both flowery and fruity. It is lingering and complex on the palate with an intense, authentic and traditional finish.

Over the years, the consistent quality found in every bottle of Dimple Scotch whisky has earned itself a reputation around the world as a powerful, luxury drink that shows one's status in a uniquely sensual way.



Dimple Scotch Whisky 15 Years Old. The Triumph of the Spirit.

Drink Moderately

Her boyfriend has a love child

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 24, single, an assistant librarian in a private company in Cebu.

My boyfriend Rod and I have been on for four months now. His work in the engineering department of a Manila company takes him all over the country. We instantly liked each other the first time we met. During our first month as sweethearts, he formally introduced me to his mother and sister during their visit.

When he gets assigned to another place, we keep in touch by phone and text messages. Our love grew each day, and we had so many plans.

Then one night I got a call from an angry woman claiming to be Rod's wife. I didn't sleep that night, I was shocked and worried. The next morning, she called again and apologized for her outburst. She said she was only fighting for her and Rod's 11-month-old baby.

She said she's long been aware of

my relationship with Rod and that he does loves me. But the bottom line is, they already have a child.

Happiness at what cost?

Rod soon confirmed that her words were true—except that they are not married, the baby was an "accident," and they're only living together. After the child's birth, he had prayed that their relationship would improve and they would become a real family. It has not happened and he still does not love her. He had wanted to tell me about it, but hesitated because I might hate him.

He said his only concern is his baby whom he regularly supports. He asked me not to give up our relationship, and promised that everything will be okay. He volunteered to tell my family about this, asking their forgiveness and convincing them of his sincere intentions for me.

I have been praying a lot but I

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce



still don't know what to do. I love Rod. I'm convinced he loves me and I want us to be together. But I don't want to be happy knowing that another woman is crying and a baby is missing his father because I have him.

TINA

You must have really love Rod a lot to be undecided this long. Had you loved him less, you would have dumped him weeks ago. And no one would blame you if you did.

Betrayal comes in many forms. He might not have lied to you about having

an unofficial family (maybe because you did not ask) but by not taking the initiative to bring up the topic, he misrepresented himself as totally free to commit himself to you. That false image was very much a basis of your decision to accept him and to allow your love for him to grow.

If you're inclined to forgive him for that, you're not being totally silly. If what he said about him and that woman is true, then theirs was simply a relationship that didn't prosper—a fate that befalls probably a million or more lovers each day in this world. Their love child is unfortunate but hardly a rarity. Today's jaded sensibilities only require that he support that offspring, which Rod says he does.

By that yardstick, Rod's transgressions are pardonable. Given your great love for him, you may take him back.

But if I were you, I wouldn't open my arms wide to him just yet. I'd call up that woman first and ask that she

present me proof of their marriage. Rod said they're not married, but his word is not worth much these days. If she shows me one, I'd verify it at the civil registrar's office in the city where it was solemnized.

If their marriage can be proven, then I'd not take Rod back. I'd marry a man who is sincerely sorry about an illegitimate child he sired, but I won't be a mistress to a fraud.

Conditions for a second chance

On the other hand, if their non-marriage can be proven, I'd take Rod back—but only after certain conditions:

1) Rod had presented my family and myself a firm and agreeable plan for our wedding. That wouldn't be a tall order if he's honest in his intentions.

2) I'd have resolved to myself that we wouldn't have premarital intimacies as a precaution. We may love each other, but given his past, I don't want history repeating itself at my expense.

3) I'd have reconciled myself to the

fact that Rod would have to support his love child for many years. His son would be entitled to receive from him as much as he would give our own children. For instance, if the money we'd have saved for our child's birthday party gets shanghaied for his love child's emergency hospitalization, I'd sigh and not wail.

4) I'd have promised myself that, unless there is good proof to the contrary, I'd not suspect or accuse Rod of resuming his relationship with that woman. Or of making new ones in the far-off cities where his work takes him. He had been "playful" in the past and he could be so again. But if I choose to love him, then I also choose to trust him.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati City.

Wanna just do it?

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Whatta Prizes! The higher the card value you load, the bigger the prize!

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DRAW 1 (Re-load from Dec.1 -Dec.16) December 19, 2001	60 Nike caps	20 Nike bags	5 Nike watches
DRAW 2 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Panasonic gift packs (P2,500)	20 Panasonic gift packs (P5,000)	5 Panasonic gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 3 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 4 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 5 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 6 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 7 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 8 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 9 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 10 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 11 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 12 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 13 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 14 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 15 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 16 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 17 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 18 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 19 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 20 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 21 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 22 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 23 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 24 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 25 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 26 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 27 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 28 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 29 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 30 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 31 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 32 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 33 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 34 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 35 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 36 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 37 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 38 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 39 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 40 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 41 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 42 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 43 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 44 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 45 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 46 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 47 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 48 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 49 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 50 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 51 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 52 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 53 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 54 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 55 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 56 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 57 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 58 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 59 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 60 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 61 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 62 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 63 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 64 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 65 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 66 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 67 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 68 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 69 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 70 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 71 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 72 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 73 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 74 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 75 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 76 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 77 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 78 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 79 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 80 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 81 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 82 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 83 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 84 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 85 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 86 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 87 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 88 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 89 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 90 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 91 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 92 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 93 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 94 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 95 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 96 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 97 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 98 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 99 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 100 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 101 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 102 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 103 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 104 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 105 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 106 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 107 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 108 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 109 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 110 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 111 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 112 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 113 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 114 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 115 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 116 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 117 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 118 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 119 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 120 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 121 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 122 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 123 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 124 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 125 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 126 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 127 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 128 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 129 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 130 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 131 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 132 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 133 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 134 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 135 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 136 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 137 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 138 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 139 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 140 (Pre-load from Dec.17-Dec.31) January 1, 2002	60 Sony gift packs (P2,500)	20 Sony gift packs (P5,000)	5 Sony gift packs (P10,000)
DRAW 141 (Pre-load from Dec.17			

SMART IDD

*A*lmost home for Christmas.



MANILA
8:30 AM

CHICAGO
6:30 PM

Even if Christmas finds you miles apart,
experience a closeness that's almost like
being together. All it takes is a SMART IDD call.

Just dial **+** • **Country Code** • **Area Code** • **Party's Number** • **Send**

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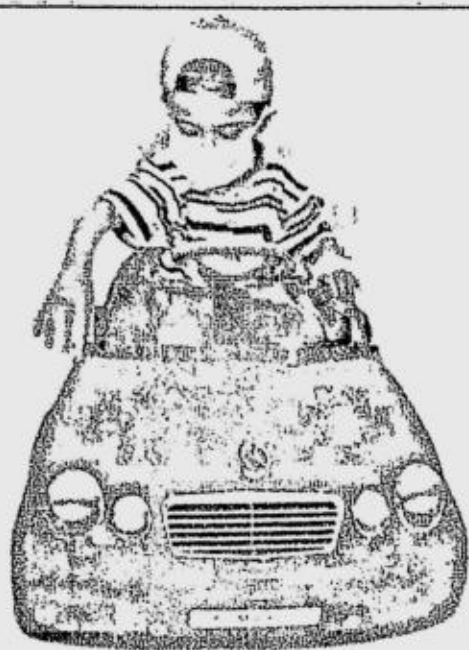
SMART IDD

40¢

a minute

Simply Amazing!

Sunday LIFESTYLE



Christmas is for children

ON THESE pages and those in Section H, Christmas is for a special group of children—those battling with cancer. They're a brave bunch, and nothing can dampen their enthusiasm for the holidays. This season and the next, share whatever you can—of yourself, of your time, of your blessings—with these children so they may smile a lot sweeter and, we pray, live a little longer.



Can't stop Christmas!



“Tayo na giliw
magsalo na tayo,
meron na tayong
tinapay at pesto.”

Christmas carols at Greenbelt 1 Café Row.

From December 14 to 23, 7PM, the true nature of the season comes alive with holiday hymns sung by the heavenly voices of:
Augustinian Larks (Dec. 14) • Sto. Domingo Male Choir (Dec. 15) • Miriam Liturgical Choir (Dec. 16) • U.P. Concert Chorus (Dec. 17)
CSA Choir (Dec. 18) • DLSU Choir (Dec. 19) • San Beda College Glee Club (Dec. 20) • Kilyawan Boys Choir (Dec. 21)
Ateneo Glee Club (Dec. 22) • Tiples de Sto. Domingo (Dec. 23)

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AS playful as any normal kids



SIMPLE wants, extraordinary needs



BEST friends in joy and pain

Share some comfort and joy with these kids

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

THE 10 kids gathered in a corner that morning behaved like, well, kids. One or two seemed moody while most were hyperactive and super-kulit. They played with the toys they had brought along; they shouted at and chased one another around the room.

One wouldn't suspect that, when the attack came, blood would drip and gush from these kids' mouths, noses, ears, even eyes. In many instances, they'd vomit blood.

The bleeding wouldn't stop unless they were given their treatment of one injection every day for two weeks. "Mainit ang gamot," said a mother of the medicine which, at P1,000 per vial, is certainly hot in every sense of the word. And then, the children would become feverish and nauseated, they'd lose their appetite, they'd vomit and their hair would fall off.

These cancer-stricken children were presented at the press launch of Gifts for a Cause. Now on its third year, this is a joint project of the Go Tong Foundation of the Ever-Gotesco Group of Companies and the public-service foundation Bisig Bayan of GMA.

Last year the project was for the deaf and mute. This year Gifts for a Cause returns to its initial "Save a Child from Cancer" thrust.

WILL YOU
HELP ME?



MARLON Cortez (who died last month) with Archie Iliw-ilw

helpers in the marketplace. They earn P150 a day.

Richie Manalo, 2 years and 9 months, has a large mass on top of his kidney, making his stomach look unusually big. His father Bernardo is an electrician while his mother Rica sells *kakanin*.

Ding and Bingle Divina, parents of 4-year-old Derick John, do cross-stitch for business; he draws the patterns and she does the needlework. Bingle used to be a factory worker at Epza in Bataan. She suspects her exposure to radiation while at Epza might have caused Derick's myelocytic leukemia.

Marciano Perez, who's a fishpond worker in Hagonoy, Bulacan, says his exposure to fertilizers and other chemicals, which he regularly handles while tending to the fishponds, could have also caused his 4-year-old son José Mariano's illness. Marciano earns P120 a day, quite a measly sum in exchange for a dreaded disease.

"We got help for his chemo from the senators, like Drilon and Flavier, and also the Department of Health," says Mariano. "Since the budget allotted for him has been consumed, we now buy the medicines with our own money."

The boy is on maintenance drugs, one of the four survivors from Gifts for a Cause Batch 1999. Even then, the parents have to scrape, as a vial of antibiotic can cost P1,000.

Simple wants

It's only providential that these kids have simple wants. John-John Embate, 3, whose father Jesus is a construction worker and mother Annalyn is a *labandera*, wants for Christmas gift no more than a bike, or *kotse-kotsehan*, or Dragon Ball Z figures.

Ryan Ivan Asisten, 3, the most *malikot* of the group, wants balloons, *kotse-kotsehan*, spaghetti and eggs.

A kid who wants no more than French fries is Archie Iliw-ilw, 4. In fact, he'd ask the doctor, laboratory assistant or nurse to buy him French fries from Jollibee or McDonald's before he'd let them take his blood or administer his medicines.

Archie's mother, Isabel, says these kids have become close friends as they've been seeing one another in the hospital during their monthly treatment through the years. She winces when she recalls how many of them had not survived.

"You can't touch their joints because they're quite painful," she says. "They have pale lips, *matigas at lumalaki ang tiyan*, and they have hematoma all over, at *kulami*..."

Like a prayer

Mel Tiangco, executive director of Bisig Bayan Foundation, says that the event of Sept. 11, Bin Laden, the anthrax scare, and what is happening in Afghanistan now should be taken as a sign that it is time we turn inward and reach outward. We've been destroying one another for too long that it is now time to pause and help one another to make for a more livable planet.

Citing the idiom "pay it forward," Tiangco explains her idea of *pagpapatitay ng tulongan*, and urges everyone to lend a hand.

Tiangco says it best when she elucidates the principle of *diutungan ng pagtutungan*, or chain of aid, by way of a prayer: "Lord, because I am healthy, I'm going to help this person who is sick. Lord, because I have a job, I'm going to help this person who is jobless. Lord, because I can walk..."

Only God can give these kids another lease on life, but you can extend it a little bit. Perhaps you may want them to enjoy what little comforts they can get from this temporal existence? Their pains may be unusual, but their joys are those of any normal child. Ryan Ivan Asisten, for instance, loves to draw. He enjoys riding the jeepney. And he sings, *la April Boy Regino*, "Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin."

You may course your gifts to these children through GMA 7 or any Ever-Gotesco Mall. Contact person for GMA is Menchie Silvestre at tel. 928-4299/7021. Contact person for the Go Tong Foundation is Noemi Sta. Maria, marketing communication services manager of the Ever Group of Stores, at tel. 735-4735.

BEE GEES and ABBA'S Greatest Hits SAMSUNG Give-away

BEE GEES THEIR GREATEST HITS THE RECORD

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SAMSUNG Mini-component

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SAMSUNG (21") Flat-Screen TV

Gift of birds

The project aims to raise a target budget of P40,000 a cycle per child for a six-cycle chemotherapy, so all the parents have to buy are the antibiotics. Even then, the families of these children struggle to make ends meet just to continue the treatment.

Most of these kids have acute lymphocytic leukemia. Others have lymphoblastic leukemia, myelocytic leukemia, Wilms' tumor, germ cell tumor, hepatoblastoma.

Most of them are male, of the same age bracket, as the illness usually manifests when the child is 2-10 years old. All are small and frail for their age, some are balding, and others have bloated stomachs or swollen heads.

John Renz Tamano, 1 year and 5 months old, has to be brought every month to Manila all the way from Buh, Camarines Sur, for his regular chemotherapy for lymphocytic leukemia. His parents have sold most of their properties to provide for the trips and his medication. His mother, Jenny, is a plain housewife. His father, Rey, used to be a security guard but was laid off recently.

Another boy, George Calsita Jr., had to come all the way from Borongan, Samar, every time he received his chemotherapy for lymphoblastic leukemia at the Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City. He's now on oral maintenance medicines.

Nino James Abad, 2, is from Ormoc, Leyte. His mother, Idelma, is a waitress. He was left to the care of his maternal grandparents after his father disappeared when he was only 5 months old. Then the grandparents had to sell their house in the province to support his treatment for lymphocytic leukemia. Now he misses the birds his *lolo* used to catch for him, and he'd love it if he could receive a gift of birds for Christmas.

Henrick Antonio, 14, would help his mother, Jenina, in cleaning used bottles to be sold to junk shops, so they could have provisions and fare from Calamba, Laguna, to Manila for his monthly chemotherapy for germ cell tumor. They get P35 per kilo of shards. Ricardo, his father, is a tricycle driver.

Four survivors

The families of these stricken children are precisely the ones that can ill afford an expensive disease. Rea and Virgilio Perez, parents of 6-month-old Selina, who has a liver tumor, are both

Only God
can give
these kids
another
lease on life,
but you can
extend it
a little bit.
The target
is to raise
P40,000
per cycle
for each
child for
six cycles
of
chemotherapy



"LORD, because I am healthy..."

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YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

Computer health risks and pyramid scams

PARENTS should be concerned not only about the long hours their children are spending at computer game rooms, but also about the serious health risks posed by prolonged exposure to computers.

These risks range from radiation exposure, deterioration of vision, skin rashes and skeletal problems. Although medical science is still establishing evidence that radiation emitted by computers can cause cancer including leukemia, there are existing health standards for limits of radiation emission.

THE CONSUMER



Marietta Velasco Giron

Unfortunately, play stations in the country are never monitored for radiation levels. This is quite alarming since almost all game rooms are cramped and have no ventilation or source of fresh air. Many also use antiquated computer sets with no screen shields. Electrical installations, particularly the spaghetti connection of plugs and switches, are a firemen's nightmare.

Just the other day, an Internet news feature called attention to the alarming effects of poorly designed computer stations on school children. It disclosed that medical research is now discussing symptomatic aches and pains that kids experience after sitting for extended hours in badly designed computer stations at home and school. The pains are in their necks, shoulders, backs, arms and hands.

Ergonomists (experts in fitting workplaces with conveniences that prevent injury and increase comfort and productivity) pointed out that kids should be taught good work habits. They start using computers at earlier ages and for longer periods to play games, do schoolwork, surf the Internet, and e-mail friends.

What to do

Concerned parents of elementary school kids in Livermore, California started a campaign to improve the children's computer rooms by adjusting the height of tables, and providing cushions, boxes and foot rests. The kids were also reminded to take frequent breaks.

Ergonomists recommended teaching kids the following guidelines:

"Sit straight in your chair with your ears over your shoulders and the shoulder over the top of the hips.

"No slouching. Eyes should be level with/or just slightly above the top of the screen.

"The monitor should be an arm's length distance from your body.

"Position your bottom in the middle of your seat with cushions supporting your lower back, if necessary. Have a box or books elevate your feet to prevent them from dangling while creating a 90-degree angle at your knees.

"Get up and stretch every half hour."

Adults can very well take this expert advice to heart. According to an ergonomist, many of them also have been plagued by tendonitis, pinched nerves and other muscle-skeletal problems since computers entered the workplace.

Call DOH

Until there's a law regulating these computer game rooms, kids will remain exposed to health risks. In the meantime, computer station operators should find out about the latter, including radiation output levels, in their game rooms. They can ask the Bureau of Health Devices and Technology (BHDT) of the Department of Health to monitor these levels. Address request to director Agnette Peralta or call 711-6016 for more details.

We thank engineer Cecile Matienzo for assisting us with information about the new DOH bureau. With the new set-up, certain functions of the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be under the BHDT's three regulatory divisions: radiation regulation, health-related devices and medical nonradiation devices.

OCWs warned of scam

FROM HIS Riyadh office, Ambassador Rafael M. Seguis warned overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Saudi Arabia against investing in a Filipino firm engaged in the pyramid scheme. A cease-and-desist order was issued against the firm from further "engaging in the sale, offer for sale or distribution of securities."

A victim of the pyramid scheme reported that the firm offered each recruit the opportunity to acquire a house and lot in "the simplest, smartest, and most affordable way." To become a member entitled to a copy of the firm's training package, one has to be sponsored by an old member and pay almost \$300. After signing up, the new member is required to recruit two other new members who, in turn, will have to pay almost \$300 each.

The member supposedly can "buy or sell houses from more commissions and rewards" out of each new recruit.

Send consumer complaints to mgiron@csi.com.ph.

"Pavioli night,
the stars are
brightly shining..."

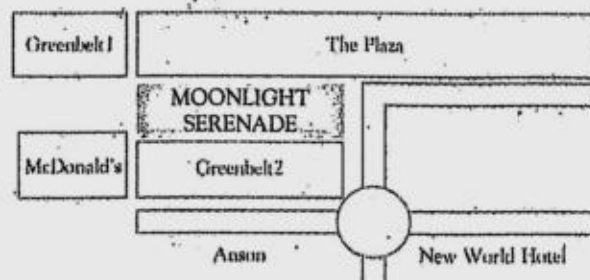


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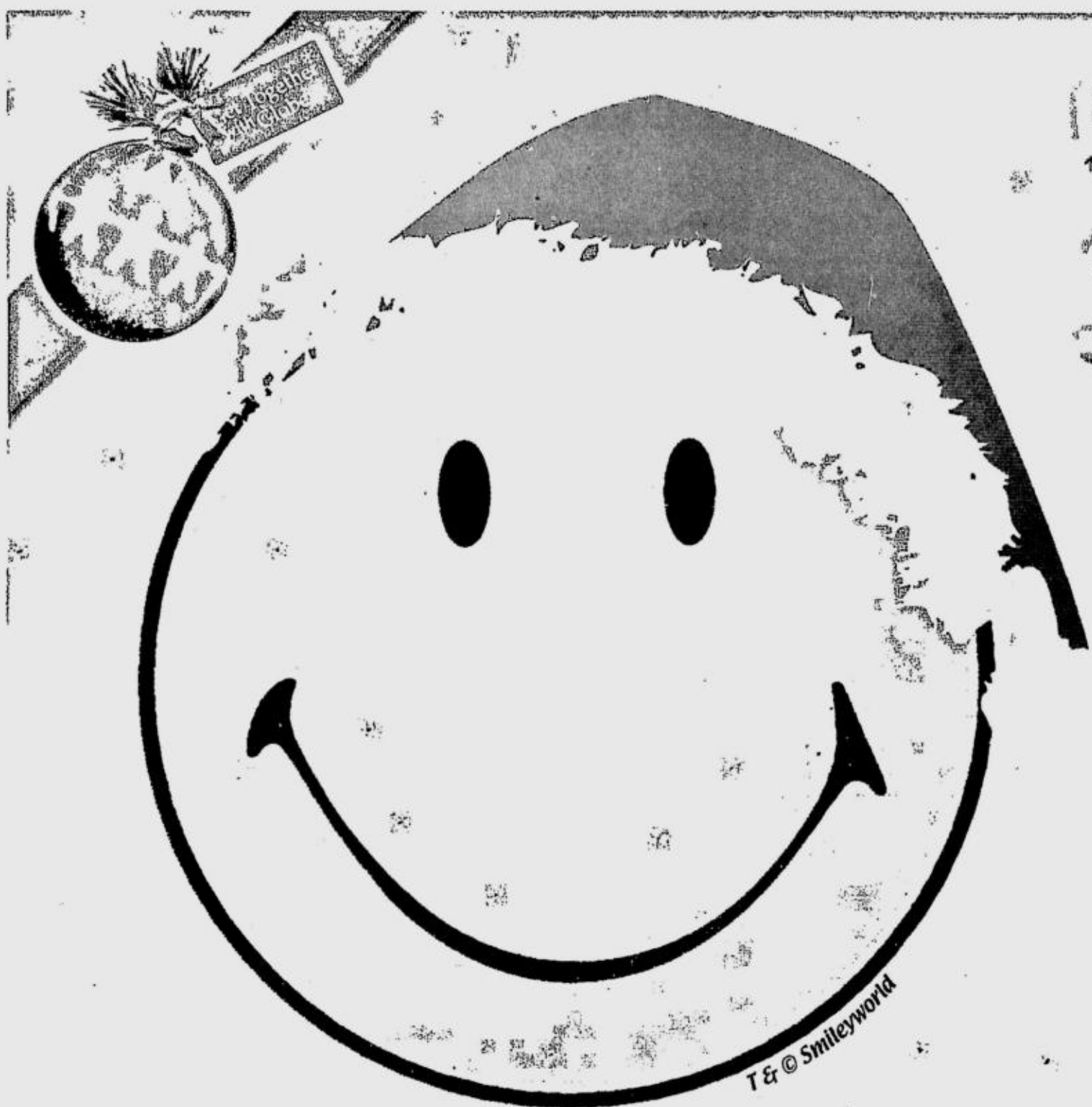
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To send a Smiley Icon to your friend's Nokia mobile phone, type in: L KEYWORD <your friend's Globe Handyphone number> <your name> <your Christmas greeting> and send to 2345.

HEY
CHRISTMAS
Handyphone

cards



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2. SEND TO 2301 and wait for Smiley Text Card

nd's Nokia mobile phone, type in:
ndyphone number> <your name>
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76543 Alexis Merry Xmas

Tones

XMAS TONES

Title
PASKO NA NAMAN
PASKO NA SINTA KO
JINGLEBELL ROCK
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
ODE TO JOY
SILENT NIGHT
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
SLEIGH RIDE
CHRISTMAS SONG
LET IT SNOW
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
CHRISTMAS IN OUR HEARTS
LAST CHRISTMAS
THE FIRST NOEL
LITTLE DRUMMER BOY
I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS
MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MANIGONG BAGONG TAON

Keyword
paskona
paskosnta
belrock
godrest
ocome
ode2joy
silentni
havurslf
luksxmas
santatwn
sleighri
xmassong
lehtsno
frosty
chrsmas
lastxmas
1stnoel
drumrboy
isawmom
angpasko

TOP 20 HITS

Title
BAG IT UP
BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF
CASE OF THE EX
CHARLIE'S ANGEL
CLINT EASTWOOD
DANCE OF SUGAR PLUM FAIRY-NUTCRACKER
GET UP STAND UP
GROW OLD WITH YOU
KID CHARLEMAGNE
LADY MARMALADE
ROLLIN
S CLUB PARTY
SCHOOL'S OUT
SUPERMAN (It's Not Easy)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 1)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 3)
OYE COMO VA
TEQUILA
WOODYWOOD PECKER THEME

Keywords
bagitup
butrcup
cantake1
caseof1
charlies
clinteast
nutplum
getup
growold
kidcharl
ladymarm
rollin
sclub
schools2
superman
uptown
uptown3
oyecomo1
tequila
woodywud

Artist
GERI HALLIWELL
various artists
ANDY WILLIAMS
MAYA
CHARLIE'S ANGEL THEME
GORRILAZ
TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER
BOB MARLEY
ADAM SANDLER
STEELY DAN
ALL SAINTS
LIMP BIZKIT
S CLUB 7
ALICE COOPER
FIVE FOR FIGHTING
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EXAMPLE: N ODE2JOY



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Join the Smiley Yuletide promo! Download the Smiley Icon of the Day from December 16 to January 1 and get a chance to win a Nokia 8310. Just send SMILEY to 2345 and you qualify for the electronic raffle draw. The lucky winners will be drawn on December 26, 2001 and on January 2, 2002. You know you want this gift. So, start downloading now!



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Nokia : 3210, 3310, 3330, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210,
8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Ericsson : GH688, GH768, GH788, 1888, T10s, T18s, T28s Ericsson users must
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Funky garb for cool kids

Can't stop Christmas!



JASMIN dons a salmon colored shirt placket tee with embossed butterfly print and rhinestone details and five-pocket denim jeans with flower embroidery and corduroy accent on hemline. On little Elise, a white combed cotton tee with self-fabric ruffles on neckline and khaki pants with embroidery details on front slash pockets.



ON JOSHUA, a white fitted button-down shirt with side slits and six-pocket twill pants with canvas belt, while Jason wears a blue woven shirt with front chest pockets and five-pocket denim pants with special wash and hem embroidery.

WHO says kids as young as 2 or as old as 12 can't wear the "coolest" outfits like their teenage siblings? For today's generation of trendy kids—whose fashion sense is influenced by music videos and hip VJs or Britney Spears and innumerable boy bands—Mint for Kids offers stylish clothes to suit their more adventurous and modern fashion sense.

Mint for Kids, a newly opened shop of stylish casuals and traditional clothes at the Shoppesville Arcade in Greenhills, takes kids' fashion to a higher level. Its hip clothes are designed especially for kids with style. Now, kids don't have to wear their traditional Sunday's best (think of clothes with laces and ruffles, or boring pants and shirts) during special occasions. Instead, they can just don fun and funky garb from Mint for Kids.

Young mom Ina Palma, managing director of Mint for Kids, explains that kids now opt for clothes that suit their active and fashion-conscious lifestyle. Mint for Kids, she says, caters to the more independent and discerning kids who know exactly what they want in clothes or accessories.

"Kids today are different. They're like little grownups who have their own schedules and run their own little lives. They're exposed to many things. Some are texting as soon as they can spell, while there are 7-year-olds who want to become Britney Spears. Also, they're a lot smarter now, so they need clothes to go with that—more than just those regular shorts and shirts."

Palma says that Mint for Kids has opted to veer away from the more fussy and uncomfortable "traditional" children's clothes, particularly those that have ruffles or lace, as kids nowadays prefer sharp casuals and MTV-style dressing. But she admits they have comfortable smocked clothes as well.

"We cater to kids aged 2-12 years old," Palma shares. "There are 8-year-olds who would wear a size 12. The smocked dresses won't go for the 12-year-olds, but our denims and tees will cater to their taste."

Palma wants modern moms and dads to have a stylish clothing option at Mint for Kids. Compared with high-priced imported labels or expensive local brands, Mint offers hip kids' clothes that are also easy on the pocket.

But why Mint? Palma and her designer, Mapet Diaz, a graduate of fine arts, major in industrial design, came up with



THE TRADITIONAL becomes hip and trendy with these hand-smocked pink and salmon-colored dresses on Beate, Jasmin and Elise.

a brand name that's fun to hear and easy to remember.

"We opted for a color name that would go for both boys and girls, something that's young, fresh and light like our clones. So we settled for Mint, which can also mean a kind of candy. It eventually became Mint for Kids because when we saw the logo, we thought it might give an impression that it's a candy store."

Although she describes herself as "a mom who is still a kid at heart," Palma reveals plans to create a "lifestyle" concept for Mint store after starting with kids' clothes. Right now, Mint has kiddie pajamas made of soft Japanese cotton, which can soon be bought with matching cotton jersey bed sheets.

Diaz adds that her designs reflect the sense of style of a new generation of kids who are adventurous as grownups when it comes to clothes. "I call them kids' clones with a twist," she says.

"Although we have the usual classic and casual designs, we're more on the 'tempered' funky side. But, ultimately, I want kids to wear our clothes with confidence."

Mint for Kids is on Level B Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan.



BEA is a winner in a turquoise-colored quarter sleeves tee with butterfly screen print accentuated with rhinestones and five-pocket denim pants with flower appliqué on side hemline. It comes with a leather string belt.

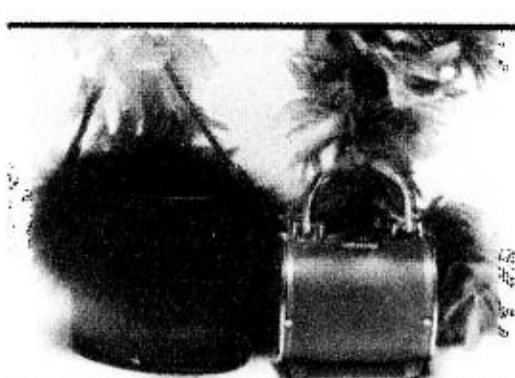
Gifts for sassy girls

BUYING the perfect gift for the not-so-young and not-yet-a-teen girl can really cause you headaches, so Cinderella Kids and Healthtex make this chore easier with its latest collections of bags, hair accessories and shoes.

Check out the Healthtex handbag made of hard plastic material with silver metal frame. It comes in different irregular shapes and colors such as lime green, aqua, pink blossom and purple. Hair accessories from Cinderella Kids will make her happy in backpack packaging and makeup kit style.

Sandals and slip-ons are a real treat with flower designs and Ostrich fabrics from Healthtex.

Visit Cinderella outlets for Healthtex and Cinderella Kids.



PLASTIC and feather handbags, and plastic handbags with metal frames from Healthtex

Laguna's street children treated to fun party

FOR VIOLETA Badar, having a heart for street children has been a blessing for them. Badar, who resides in Alabang, Muntinlupa, heads the Sigla ng Buhay Foundation Inc. According to her, "These children, instead of loitering the streets, are encouraged to attend programs that we organize. Upon their attendance, they are given a sack of rice each."

The foundation is a social development organization with children as its primary point of entry for development. It is a nonstock, nonprofit organization, which came about as an offshoot of the Muntinlupa Drug Abuse and Prevention Program. People within the foundation believe that the child's welfare and development is of utmost importance to society. Any form of abuse and exploitation is detrimental to a child's well-being. Their vision is to promote, protect and develop the welfare of children so they may become active and responsible members of society.

On Dec. 4, the foundation met with officials of the Coca-Cola Pavilion, on the occasion of their 9th anniversary, in giving these street children a Christmas activity they will cherish and remember.

The kids were treated to a different kind of entertainment. After a brief welcome and video presentation about Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., the kids were delighted to see Santa Claus, who gave them a tour of the Coca-Cola



SANTA Claus hands out prizes to the winning kids during one of the games in a Christmas party given by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. to the street kids of Sigla ng Buhay Foundation in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Pavilion as well as its bottling lines. The kids saw how Coca-Cola products are made. Their last stop was at the lagoon, where kids were treated to various fun games and snacks. "Thank you very much to Coca-Cola for this wonderful activity you've prepared for us. We consider ourselves very lucky to spend an early Christmas with you," said one of

the kids, who in turn gave a Christmas card, signed by all the kids and volunteers of the foundation. "This is one Christmas we will truly never forget. We are deeply grateful to Coca-Cola for taking time and effort in bringing happiness to these kids during this time of the year," said Aileen Aro, project manager of the foundation.

Characters UNLIMITED

P49.75



LITTLE STARS

Young winners in the Sta. Lucia Grand Mall annual model search sporting Jeano's Khaki clothes at "Holiday Fashion Show Christmas Magic," held recently at the Entertainment Center on the basement level of Sta. Lucia Grand Mall.

STARTING YOUNG.

Another sporty and trendy get-up by Palomino for girls



Children have such simple wishes, even those with cancer, and around the Christmas season, they are granted through the Children's Cancer Foundation



JOSHUA de los Santos with his mother Myra



ESTHER Joy Limerp with her mother Clair



REGINA Daet



RICHIE Caballa

Wish and you shall receive

BY PINKY C. ROXAS
Contributor
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

IF you had cancer, what would you wish for?

For some 22 pediatric oncology patients of the Philippine General Hospital, wish day came in late November through the Children's Cancer Foundation. Their wishes were varied, from new clothes and shoes, scooters and bicycles, television and radio cassette player, Game Boy and Walkman to a modest bed mattress.

The children were asked to write letters stating what they wished for; Ruby Ortega of Social Services department then forwarded the letter to the foundation, which compiled a wish list.

The list was circulated among the foundation's friends and volunteers, who began to source, purchase, or simply find kind benefactors to sponsor these wishes.

Office workers pooled their spare change or sacrificed a lunch-out to buy a scooter for 10-



JAYANN Tagadtad, Marlon Viriavente, John Kenneth Villegas and Bryan Kevin

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

year-old Richie Caballa. After being diagnosed with acute lymphocyte leukemia, Richie has been homebound. The scooter would be one way to while his time away.

Or take the case of Richard Penena of Laguna, a 13-year-old diagnosed with leukemia who has accepted his fate quite bravely. His wish was for a bicycle. From his letter, however, it turned out that the bike would be for his brother to use in riding to school. Richard was not thinking of himself but of his brother and how happy the bike would make his brother feel.

Ester Linart and Nicky Boyeta both wished for foam mattresses, something to rest their tired and sore bodies on after chemotherapy treatments. How could one not be moved by the suffering of these children? And how small the act of kindness that was needed to alleviate such suffering!

Little Coleen Castreus's dream was to have

her own TV so that she could watch her favorite cartoon shows in the comfort of their own home, so Mom could also attend to her other chores and care for her other children instead of having Coleen always wanting to be by her side.

The rest of the children had been asking their parents for bicycles. Ever short on funds, the parents would wisely spend their every peso on chemotherapy and other medications necessary for the children to combat the cancer. Buying a bike was the least of the parents' priorities. So when the children got their bikes on Wish Days, the smiles on their faces brought tears of happiness to the parents' eyes.

Wish Day would not have been possible without the generous response the foundation received from the many kindhearted and compassionate readers of the INQUIRER. Donations came from as far as Vancouver and New York. A kind

gentleman from Laguna responded by donating a bicycle for a child. A housewife looking for an outreach program also gave a bike. Many young volunteers used their tireless energy in recruiting more sponsors from their offices or families.

The foundation recently hosted its annual Christmas party at the PGH Cancer Ward. The children were treated to games, prizes, cake, ice cream and toys. Cookie the Clown was there to make sure they all had a wonderful time.

The mission of Children's Cancer Foundation is simple—to bring special events into the lives of children afflicted with cancer. Such events include granting of wishes, arts and crafts sessions, summer outings to Enchanted Kingdom and a Christmas party.

If you would like to help the foundation, e-mail patriciaroxas@hotmail.com.



COLEEN Castreus with her father Crisanto

Bring holiday cheer to less fortunate kids

SM Foundation and ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163 recently launched their Make a Child Happy charity campaign at the SM Megamall atrium.

Ongoing until Jan. 2, the project highlights the collaborative efforts of SM and ABS-CBN to bring holiday cheer to less fortunate children. Donation booths at all SM Supermalls have been put up for this purpose.

A simple but touching program marked the launch, bringing together project proponents, donors and celebrities. SM Supermalls vice president for operations Annie Garcia delivered the opening remarks. Bantay Bata 163 program director Tina Monzon-Palma, on the other hand, who reiterated the dynamic partnership, noting how Bantay Bata 163's seed money was derived from SM's mall-based projects.

Other highlights included an audiovisual presentation of the project and a turnover of donations by Manny Towogbanua of the Disney Channel and Amor Bona of the Missionaries of the Poor.

The audience was touched by a heartwarming rendition of "The Prayer," the Andrea Bocelli-Celine Dion hit, and teen icon Jolina Magdangal's



TRACEY Rustia of Victory Christian School hangs a card at the Christmas tree of Hope.

version of "Smile," which she dedicated to the Bantay Bata children.

This was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony participated in by SM's Felicidad Sy and Debbie Sy, Monzon-Palma, Philcan Industrial Corp.'s Henry Tañedo, noted artist Mauro Malang Santos and Magdangal.

Also present during the launch were SM Foundation's Connie Angeles and Josefina Mendiola of SM.

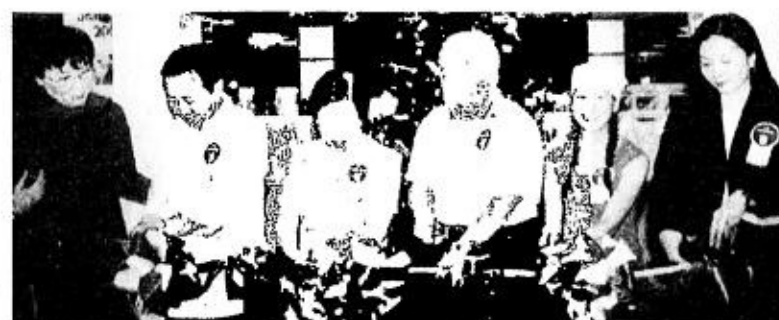
There are two ways one can share his

blessings and bring joy to less fortunate children—through Bantay Bata 163's Christmas Tree of Hope and SM Foundation's Share a Toy campaign.

Every purchase of Bantay Bata 163 special edition Christmas cards entitles one to hang an ornament with one's name on the Christmas Tree of Hope. Bantay Bata 163 will also be holding children's caroling programs at the SM Supermalls during the holidays.

One can also make less fortunate children happy by buying a toy at the booth or donating old toys. All toys will indicate the donor's name and will be distributed to kids at hospitals and charitable institutions. Each donation will entitle one to a cash coupon from Toy Kingdom: SM Foundation's Share a Toy project has brought cheer to over 25,000 children over the past four years.

Make a Child Happy This Christmas donation booths are located at SM City North-Edsa, SM Centerpoint, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Fairview and SM City Manila in Metro Manila, as well as SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM City Pampanga and SM City Davao.



SHARING ribbons at the cutting ceremony are (from left) Bantay Bata 163 program director Tina Monzon-Palma, Philcan Industrial Corp.'s president Henry Tañedo, SM Foundation's Connie Angeles, artist Mauro Malang, Jolina Magdangal and Debbie Sy of SM Foundation



SM Megamall's Lisa Silerio, ABS-CBN Foundation's Dulce Festin Baybay, SM's senior AVP for marketing Millie Dizon, Angeles, Monzon-Palma, SM's VP for controllership Ricky Lim and Annie Garcia

Sharing the sweets with the less privileged

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

SUCCESSFUL companies (or brands) don't lose track of their roles in the society. It knows it affects society just as it benefits from it. And it is only fitting that the society is given something in return. This is social involvement. And there are many opportunities in which these can be expressed—livelihood, outreach programs, charity projects, or disaster relief.

Swiss Miss, a known and trusted brand in the hot chocolate drink, and which has introduced in the country last year its own line of ice cream, is involved in such laudable causes.

It has an adopted community—the Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, a non-profit child and family welfare organization.

The Foundation, which was founded in 1975, aims to provide

professional social services for the welfare of children, women and family. It also advocates for the protection of children and for a sound and stable family life.

It also wants to ensure that a family is given a chance to remain whole and is able to contribute toward a better community.

The Foundation also develops dynamic partnership in the field of family and child welfare services with both government and non-government agencies.

It has two programs that Swiss Miss ice cream will support—Home and Day Care.

The Foundation's Home Care Program is a residential care center where expectant unmarried mothers are provided with a holistic and rehabilitative program.

This program provides food, shelter, medical care, counseling, value formation and spiritual

growth. Skills training, personality development and post delivery services are also given.

The Care Program, on the other hand, is a daytime care center to pre-school children, three to six years old of low-income families whose mothers are working or unable to attend to their children during the day.

The Center provides children with venue for socialization and total development, which includes spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical.

Swiss Miss customers become part of the premium ice cream's socio-civic involvement by buying Swiss Miss gift checks. Portion of the proceeds with any purchase of Swiss Miss gift checks will be donated to the Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, Home and Day Care Programs as part of its first-year anniversary celebration.

Swiss Miss gift checks are worth only P185. These gift checks can purchase a half-gallon ice cream and can be redeemed in over 150 supermarkets nationwide. These are ideal for personal and corporate giveaways as they come with four exclusively designed Hallmark cards.

Also part of its first year anniversary efforts to customers is a P10 Double Scoop

in selected major supermarkets nationwide. This is Swiss Miss way of thanking its many valued customers who have made the premium ice cream a success in the market.

Swiss Miss comes with a wide variety of both local and international flavors. Its list of chocolate, mocha and vanilla-based ice cream includes Cappuccino, Chocolate with Marshmallows, Suisse Mocha, Cookies 'N Cream, Chocolat Suisse, Rocky Road, Butter Pecan, French Vanilla, Choco Chip with Cookie Dough and Double Dutch.

Dutch plus its delicious fruit flavors in California Sweet Corn, Mango Royale, Fruits 'N Cream and Strawberry Rhapsody. Popular Asian flavors will also be made available to the market soon.

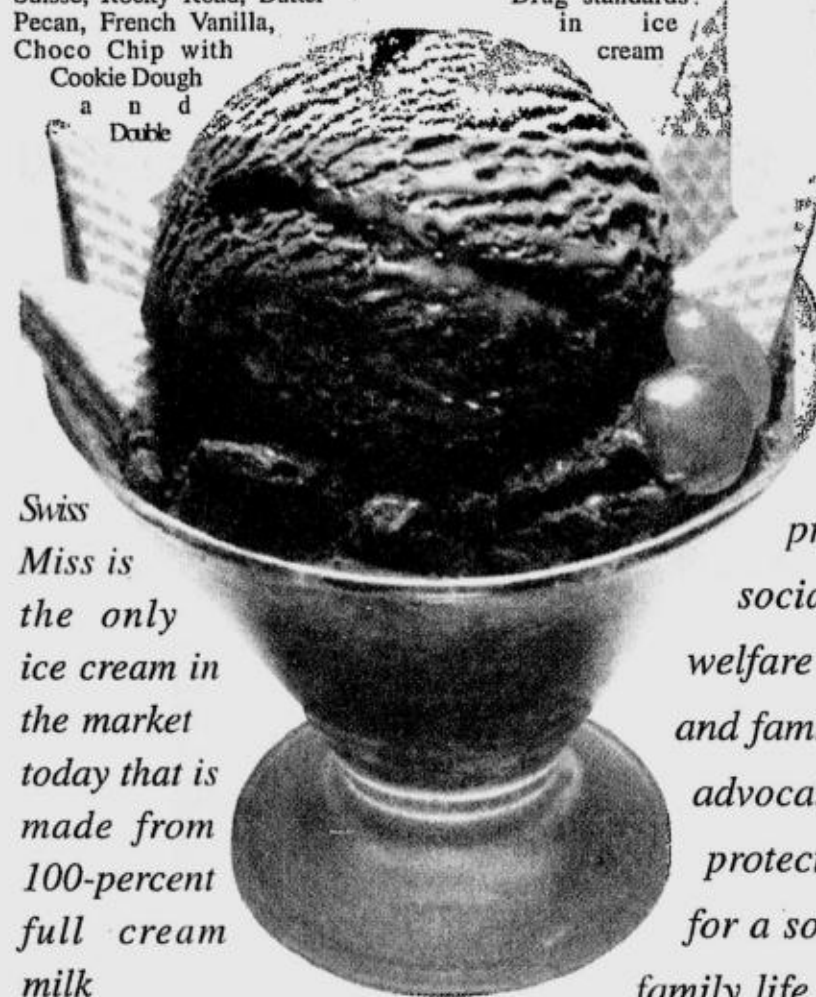
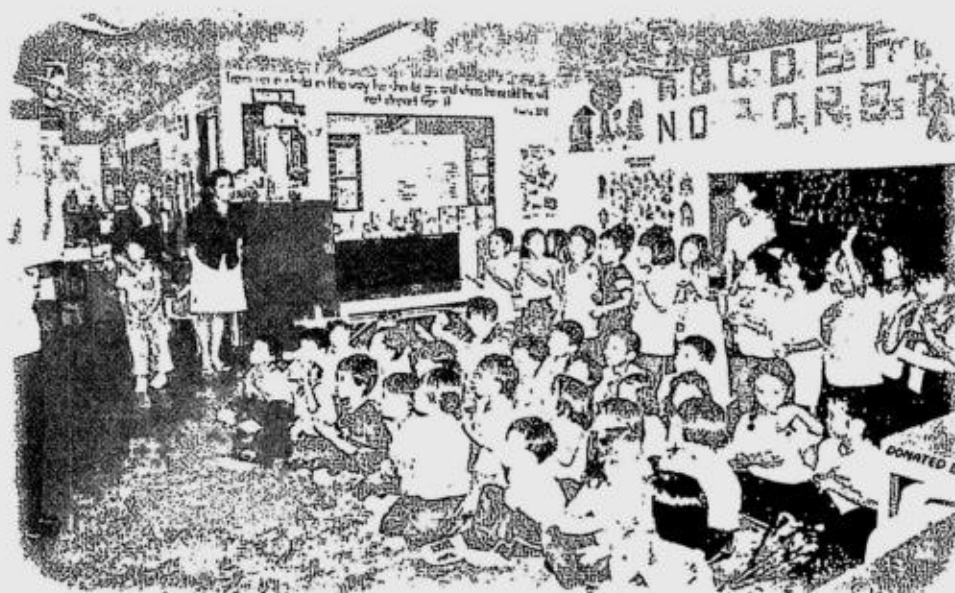
Mostly made from the finest imported ingredients like Swiss cocoa powder, full cream milk, chocolate chips, real nuts and fruit chunks, Swiss Miss is also the only ice cream in the market today that conforms to US Food and Drug standards.

in ice cream

manufacturing process. It is manufactured under the strictest supervision of ConAgra Grocery Products USA and by the only ISO 9002-certified ice cream manufacturing plant in the country today.

And what makes eating Swiss Miss ice cream truly engaging is it is the only ice cream in the market today that is made from 100-percent full cream milk. Full cream milk enhances the ice cream's flavor, preserving its natural taste. Other ice cream brands use fat substitute instead of full cream milk. The use of full cream milk also makes Swiss Miss ice cream smooth, distinctly rich and creamier in taste. Its just right sweetness makes a truly exciting ice cream blend.

The Kaisahang Buhay Foundation aims to provide professional social services for the welfare of children, women and family. It also advocates for the protection of children and for a sound and stable family life.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Suffer the children to enjoy Christmas

Thank you, Santa

AMONG the five kids we treated for a day of food and shopping, 9-year-old Charles Philip Atienza perhaps showed the best signs of recovery from the dreaded disease.

Charles, who hails from Calaca, Batangas, was diagnosed with leukemia only four months ago. At first, he complained about an indescribable stomach pain, then his skin turned yellowish; later he felt nauseated almost every day. His mom, Digna, brought him to the clinic. Initial diagnosis showed Charles had Hepatitis A; he was given several medications. However, the pain persisted and became unbearable for the young boy. Charles was brought to a provincial hospital in Lemery and after a series of tests, the doctors found that his pancreas was already swollen and bloated.

The family went to UP-PGH for more laboratory tests and Charles was diagnosed to have leukemia. Charles immediately underwent chemotherapy. Fortunately, after 10 rounds of chemotherapy, laboratory tests and physical examinations indicate that Charles is slowly recovering.

"May monthly injection na lang po siya ngayon sa PGH for maintenance," said Celia Atienza, Charles' aunt who now takes care of him since his mother works in a small accounting firm in Laguna to earn a living to buy for his costly medicines.

Celia said Charles, the third kid of four siblings, knows about his sickness—how many times he has undergone chemo, the generic names of his medicines and the horror truth of not surviving the illness at all. "Minsan sabi niya sa amin dadalhan ninyo ako ng bulaklak tuwing Todos Los Santos ha?" Celia recounted.

Charles, who could have been Grade 4 at Sinisian, Calaca Elementary School if not for his condition, feels he too would suffer the same fate that struck his father, who died young from aneurysm at 32.

But Charles prays for healing every night before he sleeps. "What else do you pray for?" we asked. "Sana po maging masaya kami sa Pasko."

Ready smile

When we, the Lifestyle staff, entertained a group of cancer patients to a day of fun and shopping at SM City Manila, Charles became my "anak-anakan." He was shy but had a ready smile for everyone. When we had lunch at Cabalen Restaurant, he ate pork barbecue and a plateful of fried rice complemented with a glass of mango juice. Later, when we were already shopping for his clothes, he whispered to me: "Ang paborito ko po talaga ay menudo at fried chicken." I just smiled and felt he was beginning to warm up to me.

With P1,000 worth of SM gift certificates, Charles grabbed a pair of denim pants, a striped polo shirt and a battery-operated Dragon Ball robot. Funny, Charles was too conscious about the price tag. The denim pants and the shirt cost P800, and his aunt reminded him "may P200 ka na lang." We went to the toyshop and he marveled at the Dragon Ball robot, but hesitated to get it since it cost P500. I said just grab it and Santa Claus would pay for it.

Before we left SM, he kissed me goodbye and whispered softly to my ears: "Thank you, tita, at thank you kay Santa Claus." *Vangie Baga-Reyes*

She ain't heavy, she's my sister

RONA de Villena's view of the world is not quite as clear as other precocious 2-year-old girls like her. Her left eye is impaired due to rhabdomyosarcoma, a kind of cancer that affects her vision. Her disease was discovered by parents Nancy and Roland last February. "Akala namin kagat lang ng lamok," Nancy said.

The young family traveled from their hometown in Mayantoc, Tarlac, to see several doctors in Bulacan and then to PGH, where she was finally correctly diagnosed last May. Rona is now on her 20th session of chemotherapy and has a dozen more sessions to go.

"Naibenta na nga namin ang lupa namin sa Zambales para lang makabili ng mga gamot niya," her mother said. The sacrifice has paid off and in this the De Villenas find some relief—from a stage 2 diagnosis, Rona's cancer is now at stage 1. "May awa din ang Diyos," Nancy said while feeding Rona, who is a picky eater.

Throughout the afternoon, Rona hardly said a word but one could see that she was a feisty little one with a big heart. Little Rona had missed the opportunity to join in the Make a Wish event at PGH's Munting Paraiso, and her mother said she raised a fuss because she had wanted a bike so badly. "Ang gusto nga niya 'yung may sidecar," Nancy said. When I asked what the sidecar was for, Rona said in a whisper it was for baby sister Rea to ride in.

Heading for the bike section at the department store, Rona's eyes brightened up at the site of her shiny red new bike complete with a sidecar. For the first time that afternoon, she gave me a big smile while her tiny hands gripped the handles of her new toy. "Nanay, uwi na tayo. Sakay si Rea," she softly whispered to her mom.

Truly there are many lessons on sacrifice and generosity that we jaded adults can learn from the

SUFFER/p.H2



SM's senior AVP for marketing Millie Dizon hands out gift certificates to one of the kids.

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ALL TOGETHER NOW. Lifestyle staff and SM employees with children who are cancer outpatients of PGH, their parents and social workers.

Suffer the children to enjoy Christmas

(From page H1)

little ones of this world who, in spite of their own pain, show us the true meaning of the word "love."
Cathy Babao Guballa

Shy but blissful face

ALEJO Jay Arienda, 7, looks frail for his age, small and skinny, but he moves around, teases other kids and eats a lot.

At Cabalen in SM City, he has his mother fill his plate with *bihon guisado*, breaded chicken, grilled pork. For dessert, he hoards a pocketful of assorted candies the waiter gives away.

"Maghapon nagluluko 'yan, nagta-tumbling, parang walang sakit," says the mother.

Jay is the eighth of nine children of Adelina, 45, and Domingo Arienda, 49, a couple from Bicol who settled in Guiguinto, Bulacan, in 1976.

Domingo is a mechanic. Adelina used to be a vendor of *merienda* fare such as *kakanin*, *lugaw*, spaghetti, which she sold from a stall in front of their house.

When the boy was 3, he was discovered to have Hodgkin's lymphoma, with nodular scleriosis, stage 3. He had a huge tumor on his neck the size of about a third of his face. In 1999, the tumor was removed by surgery at the Philippine General Hospital.

But the ordeal isn't over yet. Adelina says the boy sometimes feels a twinge where the tumor had been, "minsan kumikrot." And he's often vulnerable to infections, "ubo't sipon, nahihilo."

The boy has already undergone nine chemotherapy courses, and would have to take three more. A course costs P14,000. The family has to constantly look for donations to alleviate the financial burden.

"Kaya nasara ang tindahan kong munti," says Adelina of her food stall, which she closed down last year when Jay was confined for a week at the PGH. The mother expresses her dismay when she thinks of other children of her son's age. "Marinong na bata, gustong-gusto mag-aral, kaso me sakit." He would have been in Grade 1.

With P1,000 worth of gift certificate from the SM management now in his hand, Jay pesters his mother to get him a mountain bike. Amid his hollering and bawling, she tries to explain to him that they may go over-budget.

To check his tantrum, we walk him around the toyshop of SM City Manila and divert his attention to more affordable stuff. (It's unnerving to look for items that will fit a certain budget if you're shopping for a hysterical child.)

Finally Jay settles for a kid's tricycle of yellow, orange and blue, and a pop-art rubber basketball—still over-budget but certainly less than the cost of a washing machine.

Even before the items can be paid at the cashier, the boy is already dribbling the ball and riding the tricycle around. He is planning to have his 2-year-old brother ride on the backseat as soon as they're home.

As he tells us this, he turns up a shy but blissful face. For now, all pain is forgotten.

Constantino C. Tejero

In the eyes of a 6-year-old

THE GREATEST thing about Christmas must be the wonder and excitement as the holidays ignite the imaginations of little children like 6-year-old Jonalyn Maquiling.

As soon as she learned the alphabet and how to write her name and numbers 1-5 as well as color children's books, Jonalyn sent a wish list to Santa. Her letters have been written with hope, sealed with confidence and stamped with limitless faith.

She has been a good girl the past years that she got one of her wishes last year: She was cured of her leukemia. She now takes antibiotics and goes to the Philippine General Hospital every month for a complete blood count (CBC).

After she was diagnosed with leukemia in 1998, she underwent tortuous tests and therapies. In 1999, she spent New Year at Metro South Medical City in Cavite. Since her diagnosis, her class attendance at Redeeming Grace Learning Center in Cavite has become irregular.

But Jonalyn has been sustained by the love of her mother Lucy, father Jose, sisters Jizleah, 9, and Jovelle, 4, and relatives.

"Mahina-pang kumain ang bata ng 'yan. Kaya nagbabaon siya ng feeding bottle na merong Milo. In a day, she consumes eight bottles of this choco drink," said Lucy, who teaches English, Pilipino, science and values education at Redeeming Grace Learning Center.

It's Jose, a church pastor, who takes care of Jonalyn and her siblings while at home.

"Madali siyang mapagod at ubuhin. 'Pag lumabas ng bahay at naiba ang temperature, nilalagat na siya. Kaya iniingat namin siya," added Jonalyn's mother.

Now an active 6-year-old, Jonalyn loves karate. "Sa sobrang likot, nahulog siya sa terrace," Lucy said.

That was why Jonalyn was wearing an arm's sling on shopping day at SM Shoemart and lunch at Cabalen.

Even if she was slow in eating, Jonalyn enjoyed pancit, crispy crablets, *dalandan*, gelatin and mango juice.

And her eyes twinkled when the staff and SM City Manila granted her wish this Christmas: a pink and blue 4-wheeled Barbie bicycle, which she said, she would share with her sisters.

Looking closely at Jonalyn as she rode on her new bike, one saw that unexplainable magic, that sees the world with wonder and joy—despite the daily bad news.

Rowena C. Burgos

Paolo's wish

JOHAN Allen Paulo Abia has the makings of a Formula One racer. Oblivious to those around him, the frisky 3-year-old rushed for a gleaming red sports car the minute he, his mother Aileen and uncle Bong arrived at SM department store's toy section.



CHARLES Philip Atienza shops for toys.



RONA de Villena picks this bike with a sidecar.



Aileen and her younger brother Bong's attempts at distracting Paulo were in vain as he continued to pedal every which way, sometimes blocking the path of early morning shoppers. Our call for Paulo to join the other kids as Millie Dizon distributed gift certificates to them went unheeded.

JOHN Allen Paulo Abia blends in with SM merchandise.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE DIRECTLY AT PGH CANCER INSTITUTE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS UNDER DR. CECILIA LLAVE, CHAIR.

His uncle had to extricate the obstinate boy from his newfound toy so they could join the others for lunch. After letting out a few squeals, Paulo surprisingly relented as the entire group trooped to Cabalen restaurant. Thank goodness, the boy's overactive senses were now stimulated by the sights, sounds and scents of his new surroundings.

"I knew this was going to happen," added Aileen, a nursing undergraduate, "so I fed him earlier with his favorite rice, soup and milk. Except for spaghetti, Paulo is turned off by the color of food."

If not for his wiry frame and barely-there hair, no one would suspect that Aileen's first-born has been battling leukemia for more than six months now. A single mother, Aileen is sometimes overwhelmed at the fate that has befallen her little boy because in addition to leukemia, he seems hyperactive.

He kept running all over the place, sniffing girls' dresses or hiding beneath T-shirts and denim shorts hanging from several racks. In the end, mom had to choose the clothes herself: a striped blue T-shirt with collar, a round-necked version in earth tones, a baby blue sweater and a pair of carpenter's shorts in khaki.

Aileen, who claims she doesn't get a single centavo from Paulo's father, never lost her composure. She

was as patient as ever with her difficult son as we went through a maze of candy-colored toys featured at the toys' section.

It was as if Paulo didn't hear a word. He was again distracted as he kept insisting on getting big, bright toy cars (even a huge dollhouse!) and three-wheeled bicycles. In the end, he settled for a mini basketball court and a huge blue toy truck with a trailer.

Like any concerned mother, Aileen's Christmas wish is for Paulo to get well soon. And what's Paulo's wish? If he could only speak his mind, the gleaming red Mercedes Benz at P2,500 a pop would be a safe bet.

Alex Y. Vergara

Like shopping for a kid brother

FOR SEVEN months now, Edmundo Manahan, 11, of Paombong Bulacan has been battling leukemia, said to be the leading type of cancer among children. Because he has to undergo regular treatment, particularly chemotherapy at the Philippine General Hospital's Cancer Institute, he has given up school. He had just finished fourth grade at the Paombong District Pinagtuluyan Elementary School when the disease struck him.

Life has been tough for the Manahans since Edmundo's illness has left them financially drained. To make matters even worse, his father is also suffering from diabetes.

Edmundo was among the cancer-stricken kids who were treated to a free shopping spree by the SM Department Store recently. For Edmundo's parents, it became a chance to perk their boy up, since they hardly had any money for shopping for his needs.

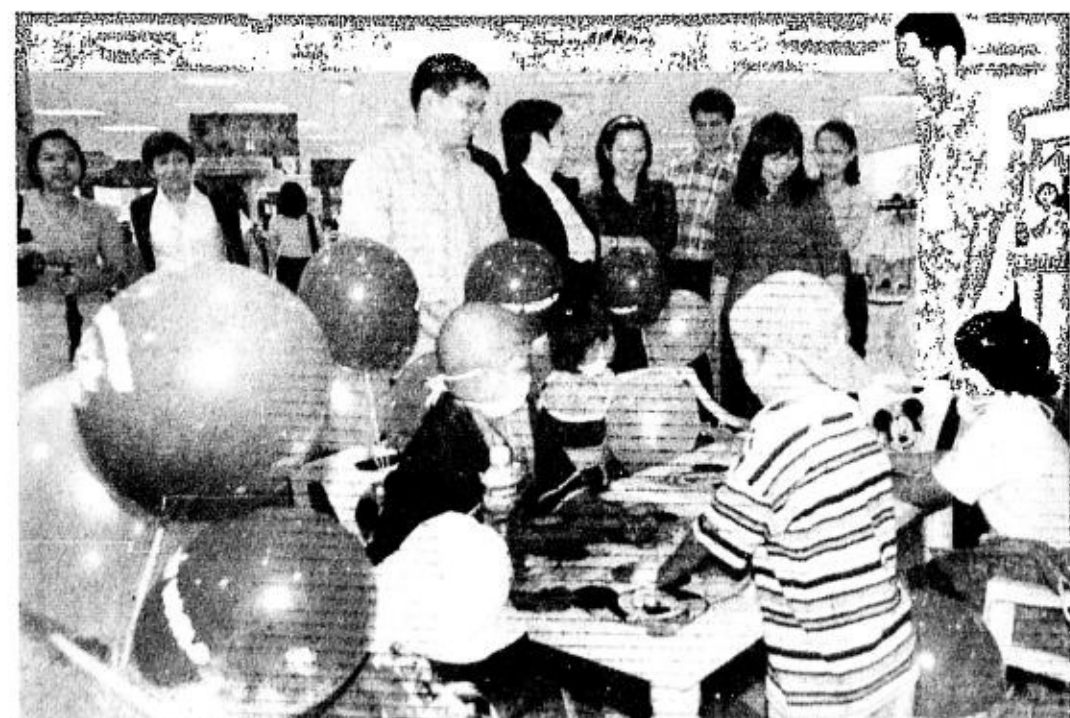
Unfortunately, Edmundo wasn't there to personally choose his own stuff. He didn't make it due to his unstable condition that day. It was his mother and elder sister Angelica, who came on his behalf. "Nilalagat siya, kaya hindi nakasama," says his mother. It is normal for kids with leukemia to experience fever and colds because the disease weakens their immune system, making them susceptible to germs and infections.

But mother knows best, so Edmundo's mom knew what her kid really wanted. Edmundo, according to his mom, is not that hard to please—simple things make his Christmas complete.

So, Edmundo's mother, sister Angelica and I did the shopping for Edmundo. We got two extra-large shirts for him because according to Angelica, his brother is big for his age. Then we shopped for a pair of rubber shoes, a pair of sandal slippers, and shorts.

It was like shopping for a kid brother, whom I had always wished for. I never had the chance to meet Edmundo in person, but it was like I was with him during that day because I was with the two people closest to his heart.

Belle V. Bondoc



MEET and greet time before the shopping.



SPONSORS: Cabalen owner Marit Nievera and SM's Millie Dizon with kiddie honorees Charles, Rona, Jonalyn Maquiling and Alajo Jay Arienda.

Mad Hatter's Party for Palanca's published essays

FOR READERS who have been clipping our food columnist Clinton Palanca's weekly ramblings on food, cuisine, gastronomy, women and bells, Black Book Publishing has compiled the best of them into a book. With a racy cover and several additional essays that were too incendiary to print in a national broadsheet, the

aptly titled "The Mad Tea Party" will make an ideal Christmas present as a doorstep, paperweight, or naturally a book to be read. Doreen Fernandez's early reviews describe it as something to be savored.

The book will be launched at 4 p.m. today with—what else?—a mad tea party at

Rockwell Center's Estilo (located behind Starbucks, on top of Brother's Burger).

Copies of the book will be available at a special launch price. Wear a hat and you get a 10-percent discount. (Offer is limited to one discount per hat.) The author will be on hand to sign copies of the book.



Bands at Essex

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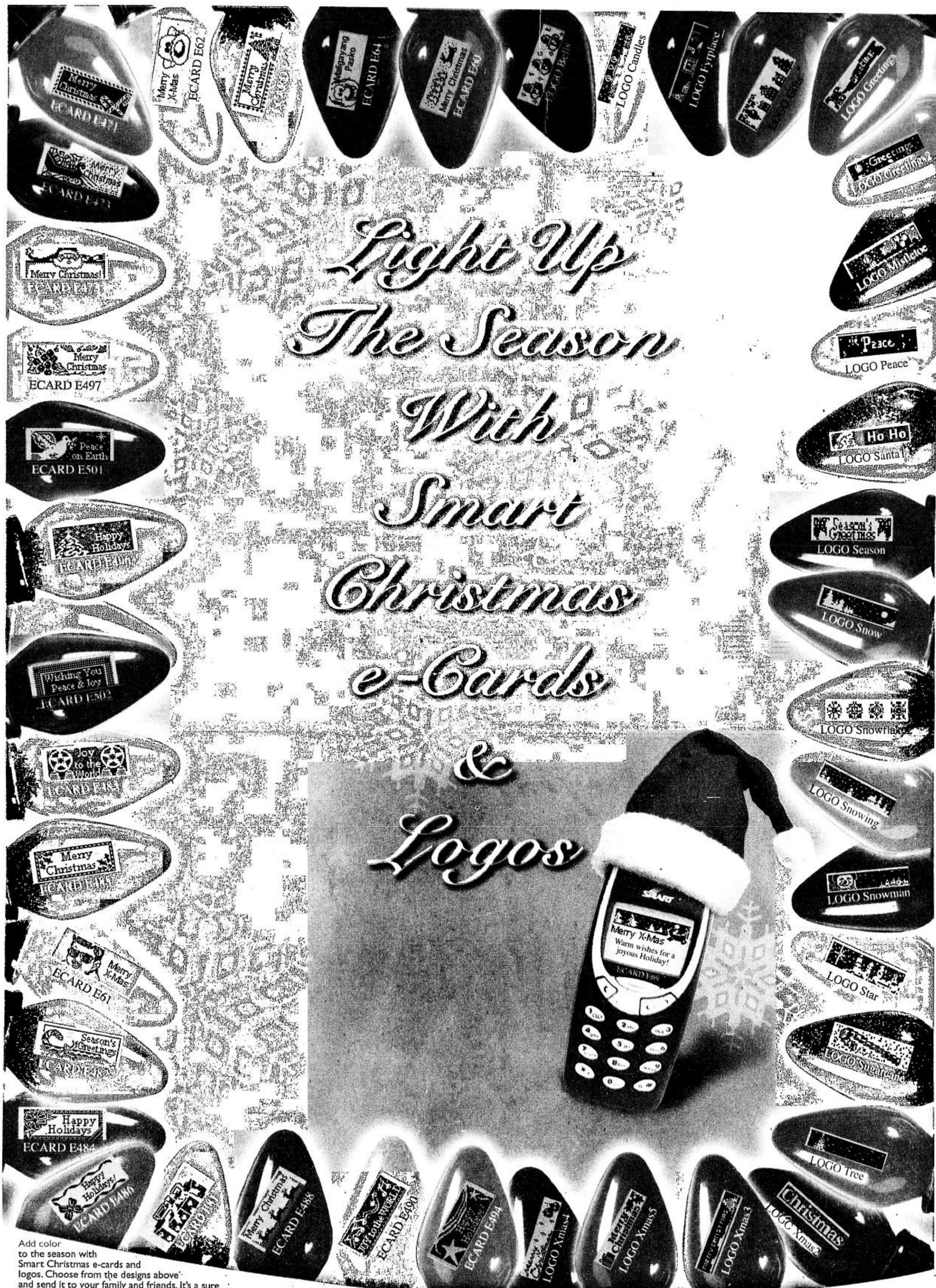
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 ☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
 G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., MANILA
 ☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
 ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB MARKET

Where You Find The Best.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2001

www.jobmarketonline.com

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11

JOB MARKET
 is exclusively for job advertisements.
 This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
 published every Sunday and
 distributed in Metro Manila
RATES
 ₱190 per column centimeter every Sunday
 (E-VAT exclusive)
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 for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Thursday 12:00 noon

MANAGERIAL

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. is a full service company providing a wide range of services from data, voice and Internet products. Eastern Telecoms was founded over a century ago in 1870. And since the old days of telegraph services until our Internet services of today, we have maintained a reputation for quality service and excellent customer care.

Our Company is looking for Caring, Responsible and Dynamic individuals to participate in a worthwhile relationship we wish to offer:

SALES MANAGERS**Job Functions:**

- ☑ Responsible for planning, developing, implementing and monitoring all sales activities of Strategic Business Units and Channel Partners;
- ☑ Will ensure achievement of business plan targets by the sales team; and
- ☑ Able to carry out the business leadership goals of the Company in its primary target markets.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Electronics & Communications Engineering or Computer Science
- ☑ With 5 - 7 years minimum sales experience
- ☑ Possess robust managerial capabilities
- ☑ A strategic thinker and with good problem-solving abilities
- ☑ Good interpersonal relations, systematic and organized

PRODUCT MANAGERS**Job Functions:**

- ☑ Responsible for the development and management of voice, data and Internet products;
- ☑ Defines service delivery, customer and technical support processes;
- ☑ Formulates product strategies, pricing policies and business plans;
- ☑ Matrix management of operational and technical projects;
- ☑ Product promotions; and
- ☑ Ensures proper monitoring and management of budget allocations and product profitability.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, or Electronics & Communications Engineering
- ☑ Must have at least 5 - 7 years marketing experience
- ☑ Possess robust managerial capabilities
- ☑ A strategic thinker and with good problem-solving abilities
- ☑ Good interpersonal relations, systematic and organized

ACCOUNT MANAGERS**Job Function:**

- ☑ Responsible for maintaining, managing and expanding the organization's business relationships with existing customers and exploring new business opportunities with the end view of delivering the sales targets established for the year.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Electronics & Communications Engineering or Computer Science
- ☑ Must have at least 2 years sales experience

- ☑ Excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude
- ☑ Ability to deal with people at all levels
- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Dynamic, creative, assertive, energetic and results-driven

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR**Job Function:**

- ☑ Directly supervise the day to day operations of the Call Center covering the following groups: Operator and Telex services, Inbound and Outbound Groups.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must have at least two years experience as a Call Center Supervisor preferably in a Telecom company
- ☑ With mastery of call center operations
- ☑ With knowledge on Customer Management Systems preferably ICMS
- ☑ Must possess good communication skills
- ☑ Customer friendly and flexible

TELEMARKETERS**Job Function:**

- ☑ Conducts sales, promotions and collection-related callouts to help boost sales and facilitate collection; and
- ☑ Provides Customer Feedback on all customer complaints encountered and confirms customer satisfaction to the services provided.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must have at least one year experience as a Telemarketer preferably in a Telecom company or Call Center
- ☑ With knowledge on Customer Management Systems preferably ICMS
- ☑ Must possess good communication skills
- ☑ Good voice quality and with good diction
- ☑ Customer friendly, dependable, strong sense of commitment and responsibility, highly flexible
- ☑ Computer literate

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS**SPECIALIST****Job Functions:**

- ☑ Assists in the development and execution of the company's Marketing Communications plan which include advertising, promotions, direct and mass marketing, and special events; and
- ☑ Ensures that all marketing communications and activities deliver their intended messages in the most effective manner possible in support of the Company's Market Positioning strategy.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of Marketing, Business Management/Administration, Economics or Advertising
- ☑ At least one year experience in any of the following fields: advertising, marketing communications, and special events management

- ☑ Must be computer literate (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- ☑ Must possess good organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
- ☑ Must be results- and process-oriented

MARKET INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATE**Job Functions:**

- ☑ Designs and implements Market Demand Reading projects and Product Research;
- ☑ Conducts secondary research for demand forecasting, product development, and identification of primary target markets; and
- ☑ Performs competitive Intelligence reports on competitor's strategies, product offerings and output performance to evaluate competitiveness of ETPI's products and services.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of Statistics, Economics, Communication Research or equivalent
- ☑ Working experience in statistical software like SPSS, a great advantage

STAFF ASSISTANT**(for Strategic Planning)****Job Functions:**

- ☑ Data gathering and analysis of information required for the development of ETPI's 5-Year Business Plan;
- ☑ Development and management of business and financial models as may be required to support ETPI's 5-Year Plan, strategic investments, and special projects; and
- ☑ Progress monitoring of Special Projects of Corporate Strategy.

Requirements:

- ☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of Marketing or Economics
- ☑ Experience in business modeling an advantage
- ☑ Possess above-average organizational and interpersonal skills
- ☑ Assertive, results-oriented, highly analytical, and must possess a sound business aptitude
- ☑ Familiar with voice, data and integrated communication services, an advantage
- ☑ Proficient in Windows applications

Candidates from other industries such as banking, hospitality, consumer, manufacturing, applications providers, IT vendors among others are most welcomed.

If you think you are qualified to join our dynamic Company, please send your resume with 2x2 photo to:

The Vice President

Human Resources & Administration Department
 6th Floor Telecoms Plaza Building,
 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City
 or e-mail us at: recruitment-hrd@etpi.com.ph
 (please indicate the position title you are applying for)

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 you
 find
 the
 best.



JOBMarket
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www.jobmarketonline.com

SYKESSM

With 44 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. From its Manila Call center, Sykes currently supports 15 clients in 6 languages, handling the transactions throughout Asia, Europe and the USA.

Customer Service Manager (CSM)

- ☑ Bachelor's degree in Consumer Affairs, Business Administration or Communications
- ☑ Previous Product and Client responsibility, with a minimum of 3 years experience in a call center management role in a customer service or support function
- ☑ Effective written and verbal communication skills
- ☑ Experience in working with people on different levels, with proven excellent customer service skills
- ☑ Experience in negotiation and diplomacy
- ☑ Experience in budgeting and adept in analyzing statistical information

Technical Support Engineers - Asian Languages (TSE - Asian Lang)

- ☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 years course
- ☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ☑ Has working knowledge on the Internet and other computer applications
- ☑ Fluent in any of the following languages:
 - Mandarin
 - Korean
 - Japanese

Technical Support Engineers (English TSE)

- ☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 years course
- ☑ Basic understanding of computer architecture and dial-up connections
- ☑ Working knowledge on Windows platform, Microsoft applications and the Internet
- ☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ☑ Excellent verbal and written English communication skills

JRun Technical Support Engineers (JR TSE)

- ☑ Adept in JAVA Programming and is capable of providing general JRun installation and configuration assistance and must have a familiarity with HTTP specifications
- ☑ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- ☑ Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- ☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- ☑ Extensive experience in HTML, Servlet programming, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

ColdFusion Technical Support Engineers (CF TSE)

- ☑ Experience with ColdFusion or ColdFusion Studio
- ☑ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- ☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris; or HP/UX)
- ☑ Extensive experience in HTML, web servers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- ☑ Basic knowledge of RDBMS and JavaScript

Macromedia Technical Support Engineers (MTSE)

- ☑ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Authorware, Director, Freehand, UltraDev)
- ☑ Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, Javascript, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- ☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows, Macintosh or Unix
- ☑ Extensive experience in HTML, web servers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- ☑ Fluency in written and spoken English
- ☑ Proven skills in business willing and phone handling
- ☑ Strong customer service orientation, analytical, results-oriented and a team player
- ☑ Willingness to work on a shifting schedule is essential

Interested applicants may submit
 their updated CV's with a photocopy
 of their Transcript of Records to:

SYKES ASIA, INC.
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
 4th Floor San Miguel Properties Center,
 St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center,
 Mandaluyong City
 Fax: +632-910-1559
 email: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
<http://www.sykes.com>

MANAGERIAL

SYKES

Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.

Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Sykes has over 14,000 employees and operates 39 customer support centers, four e-commerce fulfillment centers, and 17 branch offices throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

MANDARIN AND CANTONESE LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS

Providing world-class customer service to our partners from the Asia Pacific Region, the Consultant shall provide language (Mandarin/Cantonese) support to its clients.

Qualified applicants must have excellent written and spoken Mandarin/Cantonese language skills, working knowledge with the different Operating Systems (Windows 98/2000, NT, etc.), familiarity with Mac and the different Microsoft Applications and Internet. Also, applicants should have excellent customer service orientation. This consultancy position is for a fixed-term contract with a consultancy rate of Php 30,000.00.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé via e-mail to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com or mail it to 4F SMPC Bldg., St. Francis Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

We Urgently Need Highly-Skilled Individuals for the following positions:**Technical Support Engineer Sales Executive**

- ~ Male or female with a computer-related degree from a reputable college or university
- ~ In-depth knowledge on PC hardware, Windows OS and graphics/video applications
- ~ Preferably with background in PC networking (LAN)

PC-based Video Editor

- ~ Male or female with extensive experience in PC-based non-linear video editing
- ~ Preferably with background in PC networking (LAN)

Café Manager

- ~ Male or female with experience in restaurant/café management
- ~ Preferably with background in computer operation

Cook

- ~ At least 2 years working experience in a restaurant

Due to the urgency, please e-mail your resumé to hason@pacific.net.ph, or apply in person (bring 2x2 photo, resumé and other credentials) at address: Unit 701 Global Tower Bldg., Gen. Mascardo St. corner Capt. M. Reyes Sts., Bangkal, Makati City.



ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT HEADS

(Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga & Metro Manila)

- Assists the Store Manager in implementing excellent customer service and merchandise presentation.
- Must possess strong leadership skills. Can effectively lead a team of store personnel and willing to work long hours in shifting schedules.
- Experience in customer service oriented companies like retail and fastfood stores is an advantage.
- Reports to the Store Manager.
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumes with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis Quezon City

E-mail address: rsd-ldg@i-manila.com.ph
Telephone Nos: 3950032/ 6350751 local 115 to 118

FASHION TEACHERS NEEDED

An International Fashion School in Manila requires teachers with expertise in the following areas:

**FASHION MARKETING
RETAIL BUYING
FASHION DRAPING
PATTERN MAKING
INDUSTRIAL SEWING**

Applicants **must** possess relevant post-secondary education and work experience.

Fax resumé and cover letter to:
521-2593

only qualified applicants will be considered

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

What Drives You**The Job: Health, Environment & Safety Coordinator**

Collaboration with business unit managers in the development and maintenance of cost-effective EHS (Environment, Health & Safety) management systems. Participation in all local compliance reviews and facilitating the implementation of recommendations. Initiating plans aimed at instituting innovative solutions to minimize environmental risks to surrounding local communities. Conducting EHS training programs to company employees as well as business partners from outside the company. Monitoring of local EHS related legislative or regulatory developments and participation in formulation of advocacy strategies.

The Person.

Graduate of any of the Science courses with at least 5 years related work experience. Should have an extensive exposure on environmental site assessment and remediation preferably from the refining or manufacturing industry. Must be willing to travel extensively.

Working for a diverse and globally competitive company, Caltex, a ChevronTexaco company, has a business network that spans the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and the Middle East. Caltex is committed to maximizing a multi-cultural work force and valuing the uniqueness of each individual. Our vision is to be the global energy company most admired for its people, partnership and performance. Our passion is to achieve results that exceed expectations—that of our own and those of others. If you share the same values and passion, you may send your application to Caltex—Human Resources, 6F 6750, Ayala Avenue 1226, Makati City. Please indicate the position you are applying for at the upper left hand corner of the envelope. Closing date is on 28 December 2001.



Caltex is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a Caltex career. Application letters will be filed for future reference for a maximum of 6 months.

SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILS. CORPORATION
is in need of the following:

MIS MANAGER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old
Graduate of Computer Science or any I.T. related course
Has at least 5 years minimum related experience in network management and MIS processes
Knowledge in SAP/R3
Excellent verbal and written communication skills

SALES BRANCH MANAGER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old
Graduate of any business related course
Computer literate with excellent verbal and written communication skills
With 3 years minimum experience in sales and marketing of consumer electronics products
A Resident of Davao

TELECOMS MANAGER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old
Graduate of any Engineering course
With 3 years minimum experience in telecoms preferably has worked for reputable telecommunication companies
Computer literate with good communication skills

TELECOMS ASSISTANT

Male or female, not more than 24 years old
Graduate of any Engineering or Business Administration course preferably fresh graduates
Computer literate with good communication skills

PLEASE SEND RESUMÉ AS BODY OF THE E-MAIL TO:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
E-mail address: phoebe@samsung.co.kr

URGENT RECRUITMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

is in need of a qualified individual for the position of:

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT – Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Reporting to a Portfolio Manager, performs a variety of research, technical, monitoring and moderate administrative services related to programme activities, in pursuit of UNDP thrusts and objectives. Tasks and duties includes:

1. **Project Formulation** - Conducts researches and studies related to project formulation in support of the Country Office thrusts, drafting inputs to Preparatory Assistance Documents and Programme/Project Documents, preparing reports and programme profiles for presentation and providing inputs for the development of Consultants' Terms of Reference; assists in resource mobilization activities of the unit.
2. **Networking/Alaising** - Establishes contacts/networks and gathers baseline information on potential project participants; coordinates and follows up with Government and private sector participants on relevant actions.
3. **Project Implementation** - Ensures timely & quality technical assistance through implementing & facilitating activities and monitoring & evaluation activities.
4. **Related administrative support services** - Establishes and maintains liaison with Administration and/or staff counterpart level of other UN agencies, project management, government offices and other partners to facilitate the delivery of programme support requirements; follows up on management actions.
5. **Supports UNDP advocacy** through close coordination with Government on related activities.

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree preferably in Natural or Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Development Management, Economics, or other related field; Master's degree or units a plus; with at least 2 years of experience in programme/project management and development; at least 3-4 years experience in dealing with donors, government, the academe, NGOs, POs, other institutions; good command of English, both oral and written; ability to write clearly and concisely and to be verbally articulate; computer literate (windows-based programs and applications). Initial appointment of 6 months subject to extension depending on satisfactory performance and medical clearance. Salary is tax-free. Applications with complete resume must be received not later than **4 January 2002** at the PERSONNEL UNIT, P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City, or email address registry.ph@undp.org, or fo.ph@undp.org or fax 816-4061, 893-9598. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.



We are the exclusive affiliate of a worldwide training and consulting organization providing results-oriented training and consulting services to Fortune 500 companies and top Philippine organizations. We have an immediate opening for:

Account Development Managers**Who**

- Can plan and implement account management strategies with our existing client base, and capitalize/leverage new business opportunities;
- Can initiate account development strategies with new client prospects;
- Can be a differentiating feature of doing business with existing clients and new prospects through superior consulting and value-added services;
- Can become an expert delivery resource for our training systems.

The candidates we seek should have:

- A minimum of 5 years sales and/or account development experience;
- A college degree, preferably from a reputable university;
- Track record in sales and account development
- Excellent communication skills (a must).

To the successful applicants, we offer:

- A competitive compensation package, plus a sales incentive and bonus plan;
- A car plan; and,
- Opportunity to develop management, leadership and professional selling skills.

Please mail, fax or e-mail your resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

MEG, Inc. Unit 714 Globe Telecom Plaza
Madison cor. Pioneer Streets, Mandaluyong City
Fax 638.6990 e-mail: meginc@mkt.weblinq.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

by a
LEADING SECURITY SERVICES GROUP

DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

- Male, between 35 to 40 years old;
- Degree holder in Business, Law or Military Science;
- With minimum 5 years middle management experience in a service company;
- Customer-oriented, decisive, resourceful and energetic;
- With strong leadership qualities and unquestionable integrity.

A compensation package of P650,000.00 per annum awaits the successful candidate.

Fax comprehensive resumé at 7244975 or send letter of application, comprehensive resumé and 2x2 colored picture to:

The President
BCC House, 537 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City



TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, BEST IN SERVICE AND DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD, IS IN SEARCH OF TOP CALIBER TEAM MEMBERS TO FILL IN THE JOB VACANCIES!!!

1. MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

- male/female, not more than 27 years old
- graduate of any four-year course
- willing to do field works
- with pleasing personality

2. SERVICE ADVISOR

- male, not more than 28 years old
- preferably Mechanical Engineering graduate
- computer literate
- must know how to drive

Please bring your resumé and 2x2 picture:

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS
124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Bo. Ugong Pasig
Tel. # 671-98-54 to 64

NOTE: Apply Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
Previous applicant need not apply.



GLOBALSOFT
Research, Inc.

Globalsoft Research, Inc. is a software development and IT services firm. We help clients save time and effort with our accounting and inventory software. We have an opening for:

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

The hired candidate shall be part of a team that would design and develop new versions of Globalsoft Accounting Software. He or she shall also perform software customizations and provide implementation support to clients.

We are looking for graduates of Computer Science or Accountancy. The candidate must be quick learner, quality oriented and programming enthusiast.

Please submit your resume, transcript of records and recent photo to:

GLOBALSOFT RESEARCH, INC.
1903B West Tower, Phil. Stock Exch., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

MANAGERIAL / TECHNICAL / PROFESSIONAL



ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

STORE MANAGER

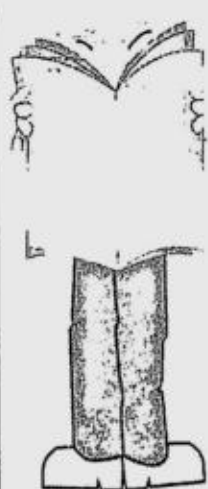
(Pampanga)

- Responsible for the overall operations of the store which includes effective implementation of customer service, merchandise display, personnel management and inventory control.
- Must possess strong leadership skills to effectively direct a team of store personnel.
- With at least 3 years experience in store management.
- Reports to the AVP-Operations.
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumes with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis Quezon City
E-mail address: rsc-tdg@i-manila.com.ph
Telephone Nos: 3950032, 6350751 local 115 to118

The best companies need the best people.



JOB Market ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

mhe DEMAG

Our multinational company is a joint venture of Jebsen & Jessen South East Asia, Mannesmann Dematic AG, and First Philippine Holdings Corporation. We offer challenging career opportunities for a:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

He / she must have 2 - 4 years experience in marketing industrial products, with an education degree preferably in marketing, with basic competency in market research & intelligence, advertising, promotion and sales support; computer literate, with pleasant communication skills.

Qualified persons must send (pref. Email) their Application, Resume & ID Photo, not later than Dec 21, to:

Human Resource Manager
MHE-Dematic (P) Inc
Main Avenue,
Severina Industrial Estate
KM 16, West Service Road
SLEX, Bicutan, Paranaque

E-mail:
loy_judan@mhe-dematic.com

Tel 822-2536 Fax 821 2517

WANTED

AUTOMATION ENGINEER

- Not more than 35 years old
- Knowledge of PLC is a must
- Computer literate
- EE or ECE
- Experience with SCADA system is advantage

Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumé to:

Box Code ST-1125
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Flr., Bldg. B, EDSA
Mandaluyong City
Email: systemo@info.com.ph

PEOPLESUPPORT



PeopleSupport is a leading contact center that provides customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP, and phone. Our global network is composed of corporate headquarters in L.A., US operations center in St. Louis, Missouri, sales offices strategically placed in major cities in the US, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

WWW.PEOPLESUPPORT.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

eReps™

are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide online customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP and phone on a 24x7 basis. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Four year college degree. Customer service orientation. Excellent English communication skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts. Good typing skills.

travel eReps™

2+ years' experience in airline reservations (preferably international), or hotel/car rental reservations.

technical eReps™

College graduates from Computer Science/IT courses (or any related degree/background).

GeNeRaL eReps™

College graduates with strong customer service orientation.

We offer a dynamic work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

EMAIL YOUR RESUMES TO:

applicants@peoplesupport.com

12th - 14th FL. PHILAMLIFE TOWER, 8767 PASEO DE ROXAS, SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI

If you are
.... single, male, 20 to 30 years old
.... college graduate

and posses the following:
.... good communication skills
and interpersonal skills
.... capability to drive
.... willingness to travel from time to time
.... strong determination to succeed and has the ability to have fun in everything you do.

APPLY NOW !!!

Corporate Recruitment
RAMCAR CENTER
80-82 Roces Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City
* Previous applicants need not apply

**Up for Challenge?
Join our Powerful
SALES TEAM**

What's in store for you?

We give our employees opportunities to explore their potentials by offering them an environment that will give them the chance to learn the latest trends and techniques in SALES.

Thus, this will equip them in handling a MANAGEMENT position upon successful completion of the training program.

A leading Public Relations Agency is looking for the right candidate for the position of

PR ACCOUNTS MANAGER

You must have at least one-year experience in servicing clients for their public relations and publicity requirements.

You must be able to write press and broadcast releases to address a client's objectives.

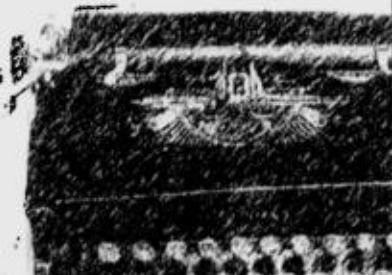
You must have above average communication skills in English, both oral and written. You must be organized and possess the ability to document all matters properly.

To gain an edge, you must be aware of current lifestyle and entertainment news and be interested to apply such knowledge to your tasks.

You will beat all deadlines.

Send your detailed resumé and recent photo to the
HIRING SQUAD
on or before
19 December 2001

**1609-1610 Medical Plaza
25 San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City**



WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

MAN B&W Diesel Technical Service (Philippines) Inc.
is in need of A WELL QUALIFIED

ACCOUNTANT

applicable for our Service Center located in Cavite City with the following qualifications:

- Computer literate specially with wide knowledge in computerized Accounting System.
- At least two (2) years audit experience.
- Familiar with tax rules & laws.
- Articulate both in oral & written communications.

Interested applicant may submit their resumé in our Makati branch office at:

MAN B&W Diesel Technical Service (Philippines) Inc.
Unit 6-A, LTA Bldg., 118 Perea St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Attention: THE MANAGER

A Pharmaceutical Company is in search for an:

ACCOUNTANT

- Male/female, not more than 28 years old
- Good communication skills (oral and written)
- Graduate of B.S. Accounting
- Knowledge in Computer
- Preferably with experience in a Pharmaceuticals Company

This is an immediate requirement; all interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, copy of transcript of records, with 2x2 picture to:

**Unit 902-A West Tower
Teklite Bldg. PSE Ctr.
Exchange Road, Ortigas
Pasig City**

Occupational Health Consultant

A multi-national company is in need of an Occupational Health Consultant in the area of Industrial Health, Safety and Environment on a one (1) year contractual basis.

The main challenge of the position is to provide high quality Occupational Health support for the various operations of the company. The consultant will be involved in the development and implementation of the different health policies and programs of the company.

Interested applicants should have:

- A Medical Degree;
- License to Practice from the Professional Regulations Commission;
- A Masteral Degree in Occupational Health;
- At least three (3) years experience in the practice of Occupational Health in an industry;
- Computer literacy;
- Mobility is an advantage.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to send their resumés to:

P.O. Box 1174 MCC 1251, Makati City
Code: OHC-1201

Deadline of submission is on December 21, 2001

(Replies will be sent to qualified applicants only.)



CALL RESOURCES and DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, INC.

New Products Division

We are currently searching for Account Executives with a passion for the Internet:

- Will be responsible for developing and managing accounts or a segment of various accounts
- Are customer-oriented and understand the account management process, with the ability to deliver presentations and negotiate with high level executives
- Should have a good grasp of the customers' type of business and are capable of enhancing their sales and marketing programs
- Must be able to reach sales targets and expand the client base of the company

Job Requirements

- Graduate of any 4-year college course
- Internet/I.T. sales experience an advantage but not necessary
- Excellent presentation and writing skills
- People-oriented
- Resourceful and can work with minimum supervision
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Look good and feel good during the interview.

Many recruiters have a portion in their interview sheet that pertains to grooming, so having a neat and clean appearance does count a lot. Obviously, being late for an interview will add to Jaymie's anxiety (and sweat!) and that shows during the interview, not to mention the demerits she'll get from her interviewer for being late.

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SUNDAY

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

INQUIRER

MAGAZINE

December 16, 2001

Volume 14 No. 41

Maria Teresa Carlson
**Beauty and
Tragedy**

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JERRY DIÑO AND THE PAJA

(Last week, *SIM* published a letter from Reynaldo Jaylo of the Philippine Amateur Judo Association or PAJA complaining about the article on Jerry Diño titled "Going Away Gently" by Frank Cimatu of PDI's Northern Luzon Bureau. Mr. Jaylo wrote that the late judoka had no problem with the PAJA, and to say otherwise was an "insult" to the association. This is Mr. Cimatu's reply.)

The correction about the first Filipino judokas had been pointed out earlier by a judo referee, and we apologize for that. I do not agree, however, that Jerry Diño had no problem with the PAJA. When the Baguio-based members of the Philippine judo team called it quits, it was big news in Baguio. In fact, it is still being talked about up to now. If Diño had no conflict with PAJA, why did he stop competing? The Diños tried to be civil about the whole thing, saying that it would attract more controversy if they talked, and also because one of their clan members is still with the team.

Liza Galao wrote a paragraph about it in her column in a weekly paper here, and the PAJA members threatened to sue her with libel. The former Baguio-based members were angry about the whole incident, but I decided not to quote them. They finished their studies, by the way, and are still practicing judo. One even migrated to Japan to practice judo there "where there is no dirty politics involved," as his e-mail said. It is unfortunate that Jerry Diño was not able to convince his members to kowtow to you and be humble about the whole thing. It is a sign of leadership indeed to be humble, but it is not a sign of true leadership to expect humility from your members. It will come.

The Baguio judokas regained the Philippine team championship in judo three weeks ago. They were trained by the Diños.

FRANK CIMATU

MOVIE MEMORIES

I truly enjoyed Rina Jimenez David's "My Favorite Contrabidas" (*SIM*, 11 November 2001), not only for her very engaging celebration of Pinoy villainy on the silver screen, but for the memories the article generated as well. I re-

member us kids enjoying bottles of ice cold Bireley's Chocolate or Mirinda Orange/Grape with fragile white paper straws as Eddie Gutierrez was all wide eyed in admiration of Divina Valencia in "Sexy Yata Yan." A kuya aped Agent X-44 Tony Ferrer's seemingly lethal throat, impaling karate stunts in between tender scenes with sultry Alicia Basili.

Admittedly, the grimaced portrayals then will be at odds with the more intense and deeply internalized melodramatic acting of today. But it was the much simpler plot, the more natural, funnier brand of comedy that only Elizabeth Ramsey, Pugo, Patsy, Bert "Tawa" Marcelo, Menggay and Apeng Daldal could dish out, and the nostalgic period audiovisuals associated with the care-free baby-boomer growing up years that I found most endearing in them. Truly, they're as good as those grainy black and whites that still last. Cheers to more wonderful and great Sunday morning reads like this!

ERIC J. DEDACE

22 Quezon Avenue

Sariaya, Quezon 4322



Cover Story page 8

The Cover Image Maria Teresa Carlson lived a life of highs and lows up to her sudden, shocking death. Photograph reprinted from "The Beauty Book" by Doris G. Nuyda

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees – and to avoid an unnecessary trip! – please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

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Don't Hate Her!



BELINDA PABELO GOES DOWN IN PHILIPPINE SOAP OPERA HISTORY AS THE GIRL MOST DESPISED AND REVEILED BY AUDIENCES EVEN BEFORE SHE APPEARED ON TELEVISION. APPARENTLY, CREATIVE MINDS BEHIND THE ABS-CBN TELESERIES "SA PUSO KO, IINGATAN KA" HAD MADE ENOUGH REFERENCES TO HER MYSTERY CHARACTER ISABEL IN THE SCRIPTS ("ISABEL'S ALMOST HOME!" "WAIT TILL ISABEL FINDS OUT!"), THAT BY THE TIME BELINDA DID JOIN THE SHOW, VIEWERS WERE READY TO RIP HER APART.

"AFTER THE AUDITION, I KINDA ASKED EVERYONE AT WORK WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT MY BEING ON THIS SOAP," SAYS THE 27-YEAR-OLD ACTRESS AND MTV VJ, UNAWARE OF THE IMPACT SHE HAD ALREADY MADE ON DIE-HARD DRAMA FANS. "AND EVERYBODY WAS, LIKE, 'OH MY GOD, YOU'RE ISABEL! OH, WE'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG, WANTING TO KNOW WHO SHE WAS, AND IT'S YOU! OH MY GOD, WE HATE YOU!' THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED, 'WHAT AM I GETTING MYSELF INTO?'"

As the fiancée of Jordan (Piolo Pascual), the actress' alter ego was on the verge of marriage when he suddenly walks out on her and their life in Davao. Heartbroken ("Walang closure kasi!" she reasons), Isabel flees to the States, but upon her return, discovers that her ex has hooked up with Patricia (Judy Ann Santos). "So she can't understand why he just replaced her," explains Belinda. "And he still hasn't given her answers."

Though she's only been with the show for a couple of months, TV's latest *kontrabida* has been quite convincing, to say the least. Judy Ann fans demand to know why she's making life a living hell for the sweetheart of local soaps. And strangers of all ages have taken to calling her Isabel. "Well, they say I don't even have to try to be a *kontrabida* because of my face," the *mestiza* says with amusement. "Once, when I was trying to be sad for a scene, the director yelled, *Ang mata! Ang kilay!* You're supposed to look sad but you look *mataray!*"

Pop tart: Belinda can tell the viewers to come hither (below) or go away (right)

Looks, of course, can be deceiving; after a particularly nasty moment with Judy Ann, Belinda snaps out of character and apologizes profusely to her co-star. "I feel so bad about having to yell at her," she winces, "because I'm really not like that. So the role is such a challenge." Besides, being a *kontrabida* in this soap sounds like a lot of fun. On Belinda's first shooting day, the shy newcomer was greeted by the show's resident "wicked women" — Armida Siguion-Reyna, Julia Clarete and Jackie Castillejo. "They said, 'Welcome to the Evil Club!'" she exclaims. "This is what we do all day! Scheme and scheme against Judy Ann!" And despite her recent arrival, Isabel already wields some power. "In the show, my character is the only one who makes *kontra* Armida Siguion-Reyna," says Belinda. "If she says something to me, I'll be like, 'Oh, whatever. Just go back to your prayers.' So once, after shooting a scene with her, Siguion-Reyna says, 'Hay, pasalamat ka magkakampi tayo. Kung hindi, kinaladkad na kita sa labas!'" (Be thankful we're on the same side, or I would have dragged you outside.)

It was at home where Belinda first started acting. When they were kids, she and her brother and sisters were encouraged by their mom to share their talents on "Family Night." "And I would be the one with



the most elaborate performance, complete with costume and makeup, of course," she gushes.

Growing up in the States, she participated in school plays during her elementary and high school years, and was active as well in the drama club and choir. "I was the only one who realized that entertaining was my passion." At 16, she asserted her independence: having moved out of the house, she took on a variety of jobs and even got good at one of them. As manager of retail stores at the airport, Belinda was a driven workaholic with corporate life potential. "But I was unhappy inside," she admits. "And the only thing that made me happy were the improv classes and auditions that I attended in the latter half of the day."

On vacation in the Philippines in 1996, she accepted a spate of acting assignments, including one which she totally regrets: playing a bikini-clad girl in Neo Films' "SPO1 Don Juan: The Dancing Policeman." Discouraged with the types of roles that were coming her way, Belinda saw her luck change when her boyfriend urged her to audition as a VJ for MTV Asia. "I was out of the country at the time and I didn't want to audition because I didn't think that you could get a job like that," she recalls. "No one can work for MTV! Only make-believe people work for MTV!"

But she sent an audition tape anyway, and managed to make it as a finalist along with frontrunners KC Montero, Mo Twister and Lara Fabregas. In an unprecedented move, the judges chose not one but two winners. Today, KC and Belinda have been VJs for the hugely popular music cable channel for close to two years. "It's great and I love it," she says of a job that requires her to interview famous singers, attend wild parties, and introduce the hottest videos. "My most favorite interview was with Julia Fordham. Out of all the people I've met, she was the nicest, most down-to-earth, and funniest person to talk to. Much more interesting to me than Westlife."

Outside of work, the slim, soft-spoken and expressive actress is anything but a VJ or *kontrabida*. Free time will find her at home (she lives with her boyfriend), baking or engaged in household chores, or visiting her Dad in Montalban, Rizal on the weekends. Hectic as her schedule is, she is open to accepting colorful roles, including those in theater. "Getting back on stage is really what makes me the happiest," says Belinda, who has been in three plays with INQUIRER columnist and theater director Nestor Torre. "You have so much time to get into the character and you can really work one-on-one with the director. It's much more satisfying." As for what the future holds for the actress and VJ, Belinda prefers to keep followers — and herself — in gripping suspense, a la Isabel. "All these things that happened to me were unplanned," she assesses. "So I don't want to plan things anymore. It seems more exciting."



MEMBER, PANA Truth in Advertising

Eyes Only for Angel

LIKE LOVE AND MANY LASTING RELATIONSHIP, IT ALL BEGAN OUT OF SHEER COINCIDENCE AND BOREDOM, THAT ELIXIR FOR GREAT IDEAS. BORED WITH WORK AT AN ADVERTISING AGENCY, MARCO DIMAANO, WHO HAD SCRAWLED AND SKETCHED AS A HOBBY AS FAR BACK AS HE CAN REMEMBER, TOOK OUT A PENCIL AND JUST STARTED DOODLING AWAY ONE DAY IN THE MIDDLE OF 1995.

Long before the invasion of *animé* and *manga*, Marco, who was a 1994 Fine Arts grad from the University of the Philippines, was already head over heels in love with the big eyes, flowing, exaggerated figures and sense of whimsy possessed by the Japanese visual art forms. "I had pored over books and visited web-sites trying to learn as much about manga as I could," Marco, now 28, remembers. That afternoon, he met her—on a piece of scratch paper.

"I had doodled, out of sheer boredom, a manga-style girl, but dressed in a World War I-style aviator's outfit with scarf and all," he says of the moment. It may not be unusual for male animé fans to be drawing these big-eyed girls on their notebooks, but in Marco's case, it was the beginning of a long and unique creative relationship.

The girl, later to be named Angel Ace, became the heroine around whom Marco's career as comic book creator has been built. From that doodle, Marco says he wrote a story for Angel Ace by "just going to wherever she took me." After hooking up with Budjette Tan of Alamat Comics, the starting point for virtually all the up-and-coming Filipino comic book talents, Marco found a financier and in 1996, the first issue of "Angel Ace" came out. That experience was a heady one for Marco, who had been weaned on American comic books and had always dreamed of putting his own comic out.

Though the first issue sold well, the second one did not. For the most part, Marco has had to market his creation by himself. "People are usually very enthusiastic when they hear about it but that doesn't translate into sales. He adds that Filipino comic fans had a bias against locally produced material, preferring their glossy American counterparts. After the second issue failed to do well, Marco's financier backed out. Struggling to make a living as a struggling copywriter, Marco had to give up on Angel Ace: "I didn't have any money."



Like great heroes and heroines, Angel Ace came back. After a year or two after that stoppage, Angel was resurrected in a new Alamat project. After pumping in his own money and working like mad on the title, Marco has since then retooled Angel's character twice, though he insists the third time's the charm. "I like the way she is now." This month, Alamat has just released "Angel Ace Again" # 4, the concluding volume in Marco's most recent story arc about the flying heroine. Done in black-and-white, the stories feature an international cast of characters on death-defying adventures. Add nasty ninjas and a funny set of sidekicks, and you've got one flying comic book. You can take "Angel Ace" out for a test flight at Comic Quest branches.

Interestingly enough, "Angel Ace" is one of the few Filipino comic books that have actually been doing well. The comic and the character have developed a small but loyal following since Day One. "I'm very appreciative of them," Marco says, "I'm willing to keep doing it even if only for them." Add to that the fact that Angel Ace had sold well enough to keep Marco in the black: "Thankfully, the title has sold well enough so I'm not in debt."

The whole Angel Ace saga has in fact taken Marco on the roller-coaster ride of artistic struggle that is independent comic book publishing, perhaps the bedrock of the Pinoy comic book experience as it continues to grow. And yet Marco and Angel Ace have endured.

The comic book's success is firmly rooted in the title character. Aside from being beautiful, sexy in a cartoonish kind of way, and possessing the power of flight, Angel "doesn't need to be a super-hero but just does these heroic things any way because it's in her nature." Marco has in fact successfully melded his wiseacre Pinoy sense of humor and sensibility with his bouncy Japanese-influenced art.

Marco says there's another reason why fans like Angel: "In her heart, Angel is very Pinoy because we're hospitable and don't want trouble but we can rise up to the challenge and stand up for ourselves if we need to do. She's just like that. And you will wind up caring for her." There's also a Pinoy sidekick named Mike and Marco says that you just might see Angel dropping by Manila in a future adventure.

Now an award-winning senior writer for advertising company BBDO Guerrero/Ortega, Marco is planning yet another high-flying Angel Ace adventure. No other Filipino comic book creator has been so identified with one character, or has had such enduring support from the cult following, as Marco has. And he doesn't mind at all.

"I don't mind because I really like the character because she stands for something," Marco Dimaano states. "Angel Ace stands for always being true to yourself."



Touched by Angel Ace:
The eponymous
heroine (top) and
creator Marco (left)



New in the Philippines
(a discovery so amazing, so certain, that you can try without risking a single peso)

When they saw my new breasts my friends could not believe their eyes!

Without any surgery, in less than two weeks, my breasts have become higher, firmer and more voluminous. There are dozens of treatment for breasts but this one is really unique. Let me show you how it works.

I should first specify that I never had big breasts. And when I got my first baby, I realized that in addition to that, they became less firm and they fell a bit... for me it was a catastrophe and I tried all sorts of creams and gadgets. But these did not change anything. I even contemplated aesthetic surgery but it was expensive and I was afraid of it.

I think I would have given anything just to have firmer and well-rounded breasts. But I was arriving at the conclusion that there was no solution at all for me, until one day when I went on vacation by the seaside in France with a friend.

Irresistible Breasts

One day while putting a swimsuit I confided my problem to my friend. It was at this moment that she talked to me about this famous procedure she discovered a few years ago.

I must admit that the results are stupefying. At forty years old, my friend has superb breasts, to such a point that, while walking by the seaside in monokini, she attracted the attention of a lot of people.

I should say that I envy her! She explained to me that she had the same problem after the birth of her son.

She told me too that before she discovered "Bustcream" (this is the name of the treatment), she had much smaller breasts. And thanks to this treatment, she grew from 80 cm to 90 cm in her breast line in just a few months.

I just wanted to believe her, specially when she told me that there was absolutely no medication to take, absolutely no exercise to do and that this fantastic procedure had nothing to do with any cream that you see in the market today!

In conclusion, she added: "You will see, you will notice some change right from the very first few days and at the end of the vacation you will have a bust as big as mine... perhaps even more beautiful because you are younger than me."

Me who has such a big complex with my bust

It should be noted that for a long time, I had a big complex with my bust. I would have wanted so much to have round and firm breasts and perhaps breasts with more volume... Therefore, I decided to order.

My friend seemed to be so convinced, that I wanted to try it myself. Anyway, I was risking nothing, the results were guaranteed if not I had nothing to pay. A few days later, I received my "Bustcream" treatment.

I had nothing to do but to follow the simple instructions. Everything was clearly explained.



Why does it work?

Actually, your breasts possess a certain number of adipose cells that are non-functional (see Schema 1 above). This is the reason why breasts fall and lose their firmness. Thanks to the action

of "Bustcream" these adipose cells are stimulated and become functional again (see Schema 2 above), which gives to your breasts their roundness, firmness and volume. Read the article above to be able to know how to provoke this process.

Here are the exact results that I was able to obtain in less than fifteen days

I immediately began my treatment. It's true that it is very simple and agreeable... I could affirm that after two or three sessions, by looking at my profile at the mirror, I could see a real change already.

Of course I continued, and after each session I saw with delight my bust becoming firmer, more shapely and gaining a bit more volume. After eleven days the results were really fantastic. Even my friend could not believe her own eyes.

I remember my husband during the first evening of my return from vacation. He was dumbfounded. "What did you do? Your breasts are superb! Have you had a bust lift during your vacation?" And I told him: "No, I just followed a treatment called "Bustcream"."

It has been three months since I discovered "Bustcream" and I am the first one stupefied to realize that my breasts have completely transformed themselves.

I have told it to my aesthetician who couldn't believe her eyes (she explains these amazing results due to the fact that this process acts upon the glandular tissues by light contractions and on the internal fibers by activating the blood circulation). She then asked me to order a treatment for her.

Today I know she promotes "Bustcream" to her clients after the birth of a child or after a too rapid weight loss. This is to tell you that even my aesthetician has been enthralled by "Bustcream".

I now know that this treatment is available in the Philippines and this is the reason why I accepted to share my experience, to allow other women who would like to have beautiful breasts to discover this extraordinary treatment."

- Carol Leleu

A scientific process and not a miracle!

The originality of this unique treatment lies in the fact that it combines several indispensable actions for the regeneration of the bust.

- Immediate action on the body of the breasts. "Bustcream" restores to the skin its elasticity and firmness, thus creating a veritable natural bra that gives "body" to your breasts.
- Durable and lasting effect.

By acting upon the capillaries under the skin, the "Bustcream" process provokes and stimulates the cellular activity of the muscle fibers of the bust. Tired tissues become firm again, glands are stimulated, blood circulation is activated, the adipose cells grow in size and take on life again, which has an overall effect of provoking a veritable regeneration of your breasts.

• Results that are really visible. From the very first few sessions, by passing your hands over your breasts you can feel how much firmer they are, and by looking at yourself in profile at the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already remodeled themselves.

In fifteen days, "with a tape measure in your

hands", you will realize that your breasts have gained volume. In addition to that, your skin will be firmer and more supple...and therefore, more agreeable to caress. Your partner will certainly not fail to notice it.

Now, obtain the breasts of your dreams

Do you want to try this new process yourself? To have breasts that are firm, high and shapely without ever resorting to aesthetic surgery.

Perhaps you have already tried different products, creams or gadgets without any convincing results. Now you can forget all of it.

Even if you have already raised several children, your breasts should become firmer. Even if your breasts are almost inexistent, you should be able to see them take on volume. You should be able to realize it without any doubt within fifteen days:

- Breasts that are slightly more voluminous
- Breasts that are higher with more body
- Softer and firmer skin

The first "Bustcream" treatment is for FREE. Here is our offer.

Simply cut and send the enclosed coupon. When you will receive your package, you will receive two treatments. First of all, use the first treatment (the trial treatment). Follow the instructions that will be given you. It will just take a few minutes to read the instructions and from the very first few sessions you should be able to obtain visible results from your mirror.

By passing your hands over your breasts, you will feel them to be more firm, more round and by looking at yourself in profile before the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already started to remodel themselves.

If, after using the first treatment, you are not completely convinced with the results, just return to us the unopened second treatment (the elaborated treatment) and the experience will not have cost you anything. Not a single peso.

You have fifteen days to realize that your breasts stays more firm and more shapely

After fifteen days, you should be able to realize not only a veritable change, not only firmer and shapelier breasts, but also, you should be able to realize that these results are durable.

If not, if you are not 100% enthusiastic, just send us back the Elaborated treatment "Bustcream" and we will reimburse you. And this, without any condition, and without any questions asked. You could then begin this treatment just because you are simply curious.

Only for the next fifteen days (after this, it will be too late)

At this very moment, you will benefit from our special introductory offer of "Bustcream" in the Philippines. But there is one condition. And that is to send the coupon immediately. Because after this promo, the price of the treatment will be fixed at P3450.00 and there would probably be no more free trials.

Remember this well: you are not buying definitively today, you are just making a trial. If you would not be 100% enthusiastic (something which would surprise me) your trial treatment will not have cost you one single peso.



"It's incredible, I finally got the breasts that I always dreamed of. And I thought that only surgery could bring about such visible results, I was mistaken," declares Carol Leleu. She explains below how she obtained her very beautiful bust - you could have it too...

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According to your guarantee, it is understood that:

1. I should see visible results right from the very first few days of treatment.
2. I should realize that my breasts are more firm, that they have more body, and that my skin (surrounding my breasts) is more taut and soft to caress.
3. this treatment acts through simple application once a day.
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If it is not the case, or if for one reason or another, I were not 100% enthusiastic, I would send to you through registered mail the unopened elaborated treatment within 15 days after having received it. I don't have to give you any explanation. And after reception of my return package, you would reimburse me integrally. And this, without asking me any question whatsoever and without any conditions.

Under this guarantee, please send to me, through a discreet package without any exterior markings, the complete "Bustcream" treatment consisting of 15 ml of the Biological Serum plus 100 ml of the Restructuring Emulsion plus Toning Oil and 15 ml of Bio Emulsion 3J.

Please find enclosed my payment of P2600.00 + P100.00 for delivery and handling, or a grand total of P2700.00 that I enclose through:

☐ Bankard ☐ ☐ ☐ American Express

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- ☐ by cheque made out to Mail Shopping International Corp.
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Cover Story

by Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria's?

A BEAUTY QUEEN AT 17. A TELEVISION HIT IN HER FIRST SITCOM IN THE LATE '70S. A GOVERNOR'S WIFE SOON AFTER. THE PICTURE OF DOMESTIC BLISS IN FAMILY SHOTS. SURELY MARIA TERESA CARLSON FARIÑAS HAD COME A LONG WAY FROM BEING A G.I. BABY WHOSE FATHER ABANDONED THEM WHEN SHE WAS BARELY TWO YEARS OLD AND WHO JUST MANAGED TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL.

And yet when Maria fell to her death from the 23rd floor of the Platinum 2000 condominium in Greenhills on Nov. 23, a suicide, according to police reports, not many people were surprised. Five years ago, the former Ms. Young Pilipinas recounted to media how her husband, former Ilocos Norte governor and congressman Rodolfo Fariñas, has been abusing her since they lived together as a couple in 1983. In a handwritten account to the women's group Kalakasan, she described being "trapped in (her) marriage" and undergoing "terrible ordeals" that included water torture. Although she eventually retracted her statement and reconciled with her husband, her death stirred speculation anew that continuing abuse from her husband might have driven her to suicide.

It was an accident, Fariñas insists. "I think it was God's will. Finally, she was standing there, I think she slipped. I don't think anyone would like to die that kind of death. She was always conscious of her looks, why would you want to be mangled and twisted when you can die serenely in the bathtub or in the bedroom?" he asks.

He had previously described Carlson, the star of the '70s TV sitcom "Chicks to Chicks," as "mentally unstable," words that hardly endeared him to a public that had come to associate him mainly with a videotaped liaison with a sexy starlet in the '70s.

But Ilocanos saw a different Fariñas when his wife was laid to rest on Dec. 1 in Laoag City. The man wept openly, a surprise even to his town mates who knew Fariñas to have a volatile temper. The former congressman would often land in the news for picking fights over parking slots, or the way his children were treated as they played around the House gallery. Fariñas has also been known to draw his gun at whoever displeases him. After all, he has gotten used to having his way.

Born to a wealthy family with huge real estate properties, a fleet of transport buses and various businesses, Fariñas had a promising political career as the youngest elected mayor in the country in the 1980s. As a three-time Laoag City mayor and Ilocos Norte governor, he has 21 years of public service tucked under his belt. Fariñas moved on to become congressman in 1998 until he lost in his reelection bid this year. In 1987, he joined the senatorial race but lost.

Immediately after the senatorial campaign, on Nov. 7, 1987, he married Filipino-American beauty Maria Teresa Carlson in Las Vegas. The couple had their firstborn in 1984, a year after they met through former Sen. Freddie Webb.

It was in March 1983 when Carlson first came to Laoag City to join Webb and other celebrities in a basketball game hosted by then Mayor Fariñas. In a recent television interview, Webb said Fariñas and Carlson fell in love at first sight. The couple had their church wedding on Nov. 28, 1994 with few guests in attendance, including his erstwhile friend and political ally, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

"I married her again because she wanted assurance, a sense of belonging. She said she always wanted to walk down the aisle," says Fariñas. He adds that Carlson was always insecure and would sometimes compete with their six children for his attention. Their children are apparently closer to their father because, according to Fariñas, Carlson would leave them alone whenever she felt troubled.

"When she went into a frenzy, she would run away. But I cannot be running after her all the time. I have to take care of eight children (including two by a previous partner)," he says.

Fariñas and his children moved to their house in Laoag City last year while Carlson stayed alone at the Greenhills condominium with only a part-time maid as companion.

The former governor says he never countered his wife's public disclosures about being a battered wife,

Was it a suicide or an accident? Maria Teresa Carlson's death raised many questions about the life and times of this former beauty queen. For many Filipino women, the most crucial question remains: Just how does one deal with an issue shrouded in silence and tucked in the privacy of one's home?



Bright beginnings: Carlson the beauty queen and celebrity (photographs reprinted from "The Beauty Book" by Doris G. Nuyda)

because he saw her claims as part of her "insecurity." In previous interviews, however, he admitted to having laid his hands on Carlson several times but only, he claimed, when she would hurt him first.

Describing Carlson as alternately "loving" and "hostile," Fariñas says he tried to find medication for his wife's condition and had her confined at the basement of the Makati Medical Center for a month. He adds that she begged him to take her home but later accused him of "putting her there so that I could have grounds for annulment. She accused me of deliberately making it appear that she was mentally unstable."

One time, Fariñas says, Carlson was confined at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital but turned violent and chewed her intravenous tubes. "I had been dealing with her like a child. Her mother and two sisters knew I had been taking it all in stride," he claims. Fariñas attributes Carlson's behavior to her traumatic childhood. "This was an internal problem because my wife, from birth, had been traumatized from not knowing who her father was. When I met her she was living alone," he says.

Carlson was born in Olongapo City on Oct. 15, 1962. When she was 2, her mother, Zenaida Gerodias of Nueva Ecija, married a US Navy man who took them both to the US. Her mother eventually married another man.

"As a child, she never felt the love of her parents," says Farinas. "She would leave their house during the holidays. At one point she would baby-sit her two sisters. I knew all of these and I took them as a challenge," he adds.

At the time of her death, Carlson might have been paranoid, says Fariñas. He says he spoke to his wife several times that day but that she never mentioned anything about committing suicide. Instead, Carlson had told him that there was somebody out to kill her.

So far, Fariñas has stuck to his theory that Carlson did not commit suicide and might have only slipped from the airwell of her condominium unit in Greenhills, San Juan. Carlson had constantly threatened to kill herself and had faked suicides before, he adds.

"Our penthouse is where the swimming pool is. She would go up, stand on the ledge and tell me she was ready to jump anytime," Fariñas had told reporters the day news broke about his wife's death.

Fariñas' denial isn't surprising, notes Anna Leah Sarabia, vice president of the women's group Kababaihan Laban sa Karahasan (Kalakasan) that focuses on the issue of domestic violence. "By saying that Carlson's death was an accident, her husband hopes to stop people talking about what drove her to suicide and to dig deeper into her case. But the government should investigate the circumstances of Carlson's life with him, not just her death."

OR the staff of Kalakasan, which offered phone hotlines to battered women in 1992, the short calls that ended with sobbing could easily be crank calls. "It was only in 1995 when the caller identified herself as Maria and later that year when she finally revealed who she really was," recalls Sarabia of Carlson's initial contact with her group.

"It was very difficult to make conversation with her because she said her husband was watching her or had her guarded. The longest call would be two to three minutes," she adds. Then seven months

pregnant, Carlson had wanted the group to help her seek annulment of her marriage to Fariñas whom, she said, had been abusing her for 13 years. She also wanted to ask then senator Leticia Shahani to negotiate with her husband and to protect her "so she no longer had to go into hiding again. She said she was tired of running away from her husband," the Kalakasan official recounts.

As Carlson would later tell the group and "The Probe Team" in 1996, her husband's abuses ranged from water torture and beatings that landed her in hospital several times, to putting a gun in her mouth so she would admit to sexual peccadilloes and isolation, when she would be handcuffed to the bed. Her husband would also taunt her as a bad mother in front of their children, withhold money from her and make her watch him have sex with other women, according to Kalakasan's case files on Carlson.

At one point, Sarabia says, Carlson had them call her sister Gidget in the US. "But she got mad at us for even asking her to intervene," she recalls. "The sister even asked, 'What kind of women's organization are you? Why can't you help her? What kind of government do you have that can't help my sister?'"

Indeed, several government agencies had proved powerless to help Maria.

The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women referred her case to the Com-

mission on Human Rights which, in its report, cited the lack of eyewitnesses as the instances of wife battery "could have been perpetrated inside the privacy of the couple's home." Considering its limited resources and heavy case load, the CHR added, "nothing can be done in the case in the meantime." Even the US Embassy could do nothing, says Sarabia, "because Maria was no longer a US citizen."

She adds: "Maria told me she tried to approach some powerful politicians who visited Laoag and even slipped a letter in the handbag of a woman senator who once came to the province, but to no avail."

Carlson had also reportedly sought the help of the Social Welfare department and its women's shelter Haven, although both groups deny it. Says Remia Tapisipan, Haven chief: "Normally, the DSWD would process a case and then refer it to us for shelter, but the Carlson case never reached us. It might not have gotten to the referral stage." Similarly, says DSWD Asst. Secretary Celia Yangco, "There is no record of Carlson's case in the DSWD central office although we've asked our regional offices to review their files." As to reports that the department had refused to help Carlson because her husband was a government official, DSWD regional director for the national capital region Alice Bala clarifies that no such policy exists. "Regardless of whether they are related to a government official, as long as they seek support from us, we never turn our backs on them. We never refuse admission to anybody unless they are in immediate need of medical attention, in which case we refer them to hospital because we have no facilities here."

Outside of government, Maria found doors closing in her face as well. A noted woman lawyer whom Kalakasan approached also balked at the prospect of filing a case. "She asked me, 'Anna, where can a case be filed? In what court? Which judge anywhere in Luzon will handle the case?'"

Carlson herself seemed to be aware of the pussyfooting, recounts Sarabia. "When I passed on to her the name and number of the lawyer, she laughed and told me, 'You really don't understand, do you? They're all afraid of him.'"

Indeed, says Sarabia, this was confirmed indirectly by the CHR report, which noted that "curiously, there was no record of Mrs. Farinas' confinement and medical treatment in the hospitals and clinics in the area. 'We didn't know it then, but we would find out later that the congressman's relatives were sitting in crucial positions in the health centers in the region. Maria had also mentioned that the judges and chief of police were his relatives.'"

Maria, adds Sarabia, "was not just a victim of one man's wrath. She was a victim of a whole system of political patronage that saw brothers, cousins, uncles, aunts and assorted relatives guarding key positions in a bureaucracy under a terribly patriarchal system. Nobody would dare speak up because it would cost them their own positions or even lives. Candidates for national office would seek his support, so they wouldn't dare alienate him. How could she escape? Who could she turn to?"

Kalakasan finally found shelter for their beleaguered client, who was then eight and a half months' pregnant with her sixth child, at the Subiaco Hall across St. Scholastica's College in Manila. Recounts Sr. Mary John Mananzan, SSC president: "It was very late at night when the group called me and said they were bringing Carlson over. I was out of town so I never got to meet her, but I said she was welcome to stay for some time at Subiaco. I was meaning to talk to her the next day, but I found out that she left on her own the very next morning."

Says Sarabia, "She decided to take her own steps to help herself. Some time after we brought her to the shelter, she told the counselor that her stepfather was in Manila and that she would go to his hotel because he

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"An accident,"
Fariñas says of
Carlson's death

Trailblazers

by Tinna S. Bonifacio
photographs by Betoy Johnson

Jenny Ang, the first and only female general surgeon of the country's biggest hospital, ignored initial doubts — and proved that in healing patients, what matters is not gender but whether or not you can do the job

Medicine Woman

FORTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD JENNY ANG IS A MOTHER OF ONE AND A DOCTOR, NEITHER OF WHICH PEOPLE WOULD FIND UNUSUAL FOR A WOMAN HER AGE. BUT JENNY IS NO ORDINARY MODERN MEDICINE WOMAN: SHE HAPPENS TO BE THE ONE AND ONLY FEMALE GENERAL SURGEON OF THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST HOSPITAL.

Until she came along, the Makati Medical Center (MMC) had never had a female general surgeon. Female interns lucky enough to be admitted to the hospital's tough surgical residency program completed their five-year training, then went on to specialize in the more "feminine" field of plastic or cosmetic surgery. So when Jenny, 1987's Most Outstanding Intern, announced her plans to go into general surgery, shock waves reverberated throughout the hospital.

Says Jenny: "I really wanted general surgery because I'd always had this idea that you're not a real doctor unless you operate."

Cut out for the job: After Jenny's success, the hospital has begun taking in more female surgeons



General surgery is considered a challenge for every would-be doctor, male or female. It requires that a surgeon know a little about everything. Just like a general practitioner who is expected to treat everything from a cold to a coronary, general surgeons are trained to perform all kinds of surgical procedures ranging from simple circumcisions to cancer surgery. The job is mentally and physically demanding even for a man, but Jenny felt she had to take on the challenge.

Still, despite being the top intern in her batch, she did not have an easy time getting into general surgery. In fact, Jenny very nearly didn't make it. "They just told me that they only had openings in plastics," she recalls. "Even if they didn't tell me directly, I knew what that meant."

In the meantime, Jenny applied to another hospital. Her then boyfriend, also a doctor, encouraged her to go into pediatrics instead. She had just reported for her first day of work when she got a call from the office of MMC's new medical director, Dr. Raul Fores. "He told me that one of Dr. Constantino Manahan's last wishes before he died was that I be accepted into the surgery program. I couldn't believe it," says Jenny. Dr. Manahan had been the hospital's medical director but became sickly and died before Jenny could be accepted into the GS program. From the grave, Dr. Manahan had made her dream come true.

But getting in was, as they say, only half the battle. There were other battles to fight. "I don't think that the (surgery) department was ready for a female," says Jenny. "Everything—the bathrooms, the workload—was oriented towards men."

As expected, Jenny's first few years seemed like the medical profession's version of boot camp. At times, the senior male residents and consultants refused to do rounds or go on duty with her. Jenny also had to put up with male doctors cracking green jokes and making snide remarks about her gender as if she were not around. "The first few years were hell. I had all these guys checking me out and trying to see if I would last another day," recalls Jenny. "I guess it was a cultural thing for them; they must have felt that because I was a woman, I couldn't deliver, or that they would end up having to look after me."

But Jenny hadn't been the hospital's number one intern for nothing. She sawed ribs, split open chest cavities and soaked her hands in blood like the rest of them. She worked fast and worked quietly, impressing her professors and fellow residents. Jenny feels that as far as work was concerned, being a woman was an advantage. "When it came to work, *ako ang pinakamabilis* (I was a fast worker). Maybe it was because as a woman, I weighed lighter and my fingers are smaller and moved faster than those of the men."

On the other hand, there were times she had to forget she was a woman. When she heard green jokes, she did not laugh like one of the guys; instead, she put on a deadpan expression and ignored them. When asked why she went into surgery where there were so

many men, she would smile, give them a funny look, and say, "Because I like doing circumcisions."

Her hard work paid off. On her last year of residency, Jenny was named Chief Resident. After graduation, Dr. Fores offered her a job as his assistant. It was recognition and respect, something that Jenny says she did not consciously work for. She worked hard simply because she had a job to do, she adds.

"Once you go into surgery, you have to forget that you're a woman. You're just a surgeon with a job to do. The bottom line is not what your gender is, but your capacity and your ability as a doctor. Forget about being pretty, or sexy, or voluptuous. Concentrate on your patient. Look at each patient as somebody who's ill and who needs your surgical skill."

Like all doctors, Jenny also had her share of bad days. She remembers how she felt when one of her patients, a man who had pancreatic cancer, died. Jenny, who spent much time in the hospital monitoring his condition and who had dipped into her own pocket to buy him blood and antibiotics, took it really hard. "He was about to go home when he suddenly died. It hit me hard because he was doing well and we were already in the last stretch when he suffered chest pains and died."

Reminding herself that she had a job to do helped her get over the bad days and focus on her job as the only female GS at MMC. In some cases, being a woman helps her empathize better with her patients. "I think being a female in surgery is a specialty in itself. There are some things that are better handled by women. For instance, if I had hemorrhoids and needed an operation, I would prefer a woman. There are certain parts of our bodies that are sensitive and are better looked after by a woman doctor."

It's an idea that the hospital seems to share. Soon enough, Jenny may cease to be a novelty. Because of her success, the hospital began to take in more female surgeons. At present, there are two female junior residents who, like Jenny, are training to become general surgeons. Jenny's experience helped open the eyes of those who believed that women were simply not cut out for the job. "In the end, it will be the capacity of the surgeon that will matter," she notes. "There will come a time when you will become known because of what you do and not because of your gender."

Technology, she adds, has helped make things easy for female surgeons. "They have very nice instruments now," Jenny laughs. "Imagine, when we had to cut a rib before, we used a saw. Now, it's so easy because they have this thing that's like a shaver!"

Despite that, says Jenny, she would not want her daughter Chesqa—who was hanging around her mommy's clinic that day dressed in surgical greens—to be a doctor or a surgeon. We're told that Chesqa is not into Barbie dolls and that her favorite "game" is cutting up vegetables. As a fellow surgeon gives Chesqa an affectionate pinch on the cheek, he asks the proud mother, "Ano, magiging doktor ba yan paglaki? (Will she grow up to be a doctor as well?)" Horrified, Jenny protests, "No way! I want a more glamorous profession for her. Fashion model na lang!"

For all her toughness, Jenny admits she can't bear the thought of her daughter being in any kind of pain, and believe it or not, she can't stand it either. "That's why I didn't go into pediatrics. I can't stand hearing children cry because of an injection. At least in surgery, the patients are fully sedated and asleep, kaya walang reaction."

And like a good health professional, Jenny hates it when things die on her. That's why she turns to gardening in her spare time, nurturing new life even outside the hospital. She also plays basketball with old friends and schedules month-long vacations out of the country to relax. But her best pick-me-up after a long day at the hospital and coming face-to-face with pain and death is her daughter. "At least I have a life outside the hospital," says Jenny. "But at the same time my job is so much a part of me that even when I'm dreaming, it seems that I'm there!"



could help her get a new passport and visa to the US, as her husband was holding her passport. Next thing we knew, she was at the UST hospital, where she gave birth to her youngest son, and that her husband was with her."

Carlson's retraction and eventual reconciliation with her husband, says Sarabia, was not totally unexpected. "It's something that a woman suffering from 'battered women's syndrome' would do. It's a survival or coping mechanism, a way by which battered women would try to explain to themselves what is happening. You can imagine the extent to which a tortured woman would go to understand why the person she loves and who is supposed to love her is doing what he is doing."

She adds, "Depression, confusion, nervousness, low self-esteem, changing moods—these are common characteristics of a woman who is being abused, whether psychologically or physically... She may appear quiet and subdued after years of battery, and then one day, something happens, a trigger mechanism, and she decides to kill her husband." In Maria's case, it seems, she turned on herself.

THE hesitation to tackle domestic violence head on is understandable. There is as yet no law that addresses the issue directly. Under the Revised Penal Code, a battered spouse can only file charges of slight or serious physical injuries against her partner.

Notes Atty. Gloria E. Ramos, Kalakasan executive director, "While we have statutes relating to marital rape and sexual harassment, there is no legal mechanism in place to address violence within the confines of marriage and intimate relationships. Without a law in place, people can't just barge into the home of a couple for fear of being charged with unlawful entry." Victims, she adds, can also be stalked or threatened relentlessly in the workplace "because no court can issue a protection order against a violent spouse, there being no law." Reality also shows that for most women, the prospect of losing their husband—and the corresponding economic support—to the penal system is even more unbearable than the beatings. Most of them refuse to file charges.

The light penalties are hardly a deterrent, as well. Under current laws, slight and serious physical injuries only merit a P50 to P200 fine plus imprisonment of one month to 12 years for abuse that may include mutilation and attempted homicide. Besides, notes Delia Pamani, chief of the DSWD's Crisis Intervention Unit, "once charges are lodged against the abusive spouse, he is immediately released on bail. He can go back to his wife and beat her some more. So what choice do the women have?"

Several bills on domestic violence have been filed in last year's Congress, but sadly enough, divisions in the local women's movement stalled the bill until it was overtaken by the impeachment trial and died a natural death.

Recounts Abanse! Pinay party list representative for women Patricia Sarenas, who sat in Congress from 1998 until she lost her re-election bid this year, "We filed seven bills that were consolidated into the Anti-Domestic Violence Act. Then Quezon Rep. Bellaflor Angara Castillo filed her own bill, the Anti-Abuse Against Women in Intimate Relationship act (Anti-AWIR), which was fine, except that she wanted it to pass without changes, to remain as virgin as possible." This, Sarenas notes, "antagonized a lot of representatives who found the bill discriminatory as it addressed only women as victims of abuse. Admittedly, this is a reality, but our law also says that we must provide equal protection for both women and men. Eh predominantly male ang Congress."

Carlson's death, however, has revived interest in the bill. Bayan Muna sectoral representative Lisa Maza has vowed to refile the anti-AWIR bill as "it is more specific to women's situation."

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When I brought Mila home from the hospital, she was still in a state of stupor. I did not know how to reach out to her in the world that she had withdrawn to. "How do I handle Mila?" I asked myself

Lessons from a Brain Injury

I SPENT LAST NIGHT READING TO MY FOUR-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER THERESE. WHEN I ASKED HER TO PICK A BOOK THAT SHE THOUGHT HER MAMA WOULD ALSO ENJOY, SHE CHOSE "THE LION KING." AND SO TOGETHER WE READ ON HER MAMA'S BED, THERESE SQUEEZING HERSELF BETWEEN HER MAMA AND ME. WHEN WE FINISHED THE BOOK, THERESE WANTED MORE. I WAS TOO TIRED TO START ANOTHER BOOK, SO I VOLUNTEERED TO TELL HER STORIES ABOUT WHEN SHE WAS SMALL. SHE LOOKED AT ME, EYES SPARKLING, AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY SAID "YES!"

(Editor's Note: We want to know what people are thinking these days. Tell us what's on your mind and in your heart. And no, you don't have to be under 30 or over 65 to contribute to this column. We welcome contributions from all ages.)

I remembered the evening we announced to my family that Mila was pregnant. Though three of my siblings had married ahead of us, Mila was to bring our side of the family my parents' first apo. So, when my brothers and sisters gathered for family dinner in my father's house that Thursday night, we were all very excited. My Mom prepared a feast, and a thoughtful gift for her soon-to-be first apo. It was a blue infant's shirt which read, "I love my Grandma."

I began to explain to Therese, almost apologetically, that when we brought her home from the hospital a few days after she was born, her Mama still had to stay in the hospital. Therese celebrated her fifth birthday last October 20. This day also marked the fifth year anniversary of Mila's brain injury. On October 20, 1996, my wife Mila suffered an amniotic fluid embolism (AFE) after giving birth to our first and only child, Therese.

Around 20 minutes after giving birth, Mila had a seizure and lost consciousness. Her blood pressure suddenly dropped to critical levels and she had to be incubated, put on life support, and revived. She remained in a coma for more than three weeks. Doctors explained that the AFE deprived her brain of oxygen, severely damaging her brain.

When Mila regained consciousness, she had severe neurological deficits. She was profoundly brain injured. Her injury affected both sides of the brain. She could not see us. She could not understand us and did not respond when we called her name. Her motor functions were the most affected. She had no control of her arms, her hands, her legs, her feet. They were extremely spastic, perpetually curled up close to her body, hands clenched into a fist. It was ironic that in her younger days, she was a gifted ballerina, sharing the stage with Liza Macuja and Anna Villadolid. Now, she became totally dependent on a nurse for all her needs such as grooming, going to the bathroom, eating. She could not communicate. She could not feed herself, so had a naso-gastric tube inserted up her nose, through which she received liquid nutrition every four hours.

In time, Mila gradually regained her eyesight, and began to be aware of and understand the people around her. She is still unable to speak, though, and has remained a quadriplegic in spite of intensive occupational and physical therapy. She is unable to use her legs, her arms and hands.

Yet, in spite of the hardships and sorrows that we encountered these past five years, I look back with gratitude at the blessings and the life lessons that we have received along the way. And these are some of the lessons I wish to share with all who would care to listen.

1. The power of prayer

When Mila celebrated her birthday in 1999, I took a leave from work in order to commemorate this day with her. I took her to the place where she had always found peace and solace when she was still single: the retreat house of the Cenacle Sisters in Loyola Heights. We spent an hour in silent prayer at their Chapel, a place where I knew Mila had spent many precious hours in the past discovering herself and her God.

The Cenacle Sisters were just one among countless religious communities, relatives, friends, even strangers who pledged to pray for Mila's recovery after hearing of her tragic story. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who visited us at the ICU to offer prayers and sympathy. Observing how this tragedy was leading many to pray, the priest who celebrated a special mass for the sick in the advertising agency where Mila and I both worked pointed out how God was clearly moving in our midst.

Our retreat director had warned us then to be careful of what we asked for in prayer, because when asked in the context of a retreat, they were almost always granted. Well, it seems that those heady days when Mila was in a deep coma was for me the most intensive time of prayer in my life. When we finally checked out on December 3, 1996 after spending 44 days in the hospital, I realized that I had been granted my "long retreat." For 44 days, we alternated our prayers of supplication and silence, trying to listen to what God was trying to tell us. I believe that to this day, we continue to reap the fruits of those prayers.

2. Miracles do happen

I wept by my sister's side when we received the grim prognosis from Mila's neurologist at Cardinal Santos, who told us that Mila's brain injury was so severe, she would most likely never recover from her coma and remain in a persistent vegetative state all her life. The neurologist told us further that Mila's chance of snapping out of her coma was no more than 1 percent. He added that if Mila did wake up, he would be the first to pop open a bottle of champagne to celebrate.

I wondered out loud to my sister if it was not naïve of me to continue to ask God for a miracle. I wondered out loud why such a good person like Mila would be singled out to live the rest of her life in a coma. And I vowed that if Mila were to wake up from her coma, I would tell the world of the miracle that God has granted in our lives.

Illustration by JED ESTRADA



The Messiah Has Already Come

He is present here and now – not in the palaces and temples, but in the hearts of the poor and the lowly, in those who are like little children

IF YOU WERE AN ORTHODOX JEW TODAY STILL WAITING FOR THE COMING MESSIAH, YOU WOULD, OF COURSE, BE LOOKING FOR SIGNS. TRY THE BOOK OF DANIEL (7:13), AND LISTEN TO THE PROPHET DANIEL DESCRIBE THE WORLD POWERS THAT RULED LIKE BEASTS IN THOSE DAYS. THE BABYLONIANS, THE MEDES, THE PERSIANS AND THE GREEKS WERE PORTRAYED, IN DANIEL'S VISION, AS WILD BEASTS: A LION WITH EAGLE'S WINGS, A BEAR WITH THREE RIBS BETWEEN ITS TEETH, A LEOPARD WITH FOUR WINGS AND FOUR HEADS AND AN UNNAMED BEAST WITH IRON TEETH AND 10 HORNS. (DAN. 7:1-8) THESE WERE THE SYMBOLS OF THE SAVAGERY, CRUELTY AND TERRORISM OF THE POWERS THAT RULED THE WORLD IN DANIEL'S TIME.

Daniel's vision was actually a prophecy about the coming of another ruler who was to make a difference in biblical history. "I saw one like a son of man," Daniel said, "coming on the clouds of heaven ..." The gentle image of a "son of man" coming after the savage images of beasts obviously meant the coming of a golden age when Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will come not as a violent and dominating beast but as a humble and suffering servant. (Jn. 12:24)

Again, try Mt. 11:2-11 (the gospel for the third Sunday of Advent), and listen to John the Baptist instructing his disciples to go see Jesus and ask him: "Are you the one who is to come or should we expect someone else?" Jesus was straight to the point. "Go back, and don't tell John what I am merely saying; tell him what I am doing. Don't tell John what I'm merely claiming; tell him what is happening."

In the words of Jean Vanier of L'Arche: "Jesus, the Son of Man, comes responding to the deep cry of humanity. He appears through the terrifying cracks of our broken and chaotic world ... He is present here and now – not in the palaces and temples, but in the hearts of the poor and the lowly, in those who are like little children ... in

unexpected places of sufferings and pain, in the prisons and slums, in the outcasts and untouchables of our times. He is in all those who are excluded, naked and crucified today..."

If you were an orthodox Jew today still waiting for the coming Messiah, I would gently wake you up from a 2,000-year slumber, and tell you that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, has already come and gone but still mysteriously with us in a New Jerusalem, not in a temple made of stone, but in the hearts of those who believe in Him and who faithfully live out his life in the joyful celebrations of his Body which is the Church.

Here at the Center for Migrant Youth, we shall gather our friends this afternoon at 5, in a grateful celebration of remembering the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah who has already "come, died and will come again."

On December 23, I will gather the homeless poor, the powerless and the outcasts from our neighborhood for a delayed *salu-salo* to mark my birthday (December 19).

Please review my column (**SIM**, November 18 and December 2) about The Poor Reaching Out to the Poor Project of CMY, and help me gather up a storm to help the anawim of God.

Next year will be our New Year's date with The Word. Have a simple and a non-consumerist Christmas, but be happy with whatever you receive from the hearts of those who love you.



Three weeks into her coma, Mila's nurse was first to observe that she would sometimes chuckle whenever I cracked a joke to break the dead air in her hospital room where we stood vigil, waiting for her to wake up. Next, we noticed that Mila would turn her head towards my voice on some occasions when I picked up the phone to answer a call.

When Mila's attending neurologist returned, he entered Mila's room and quipped, "So, she has been laughing. Maybe it is good when I go on leave. Good things happen when I am away." To test if what we had observed the previous week were indeed signs of wakefulness, he took a teaspoonful of water from a glass and held it against Mila's lips. Mila sipped once. Then again. Then the doctor whispered, "It's time to uncork the champagne."

3. The healing power of love

Mila and I had a favorite song when we were courting. The song is "How to Handle a Woman" from Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe's 1960s Broadway musical "Camelot." This was King Arthur's song to Merlin as he struggled to deal with his new Queen Guinevere. Though he headed the Knights of the Round Table and was adept in chivalry and battle, King Arthur was clueless when it came to ruling his Queen. He recalls asking Merlin, "Do I flatter her... Do I threaten, or cajole or plead?" In the song's refrain is Merlin's answer to Arthur's question:

"How to handle a woman?

Mark me well, I will tell you, Sir:

The way to handle a woman, is to love her...simply love her...

Merely love her...love her...love her"

When I brought Mila home from the hospital, she was still in a state of stupor. I did not know how to reach out to her in the world that she had withdrawn to. "How do I handle Mila?" I asked myself. Then I heard our favorite song playing in my mind, and so I followed what Merlin had supposedly prescribed to King Arthur: I responded with love. I loved Mila the way I knew how: simply loved her, merely loved her.

Sasa Tan, Mila's best friend and maid of honor in our wedding, did the same thing. After Mila's brain injury, Sasa was among the handful of friends who remained faithful to her friendship with Mila. Sasa would always text me to check if we were at home on a weekend, before she would drop by. Her favorite time was late in the afternoon, so that she could be the one to push Mila's wheelchair and take her out for an afternoon stroll in the park. It is their private time together, the time when two best friends would spend to update one another on each others' lives. It is always beautiful to see them together during these late afternoon walks.

Mila's parents, too, would welcome her home to spend the entire day with them, once a week, every week. Her Mom would prepare Mila's favorite dishes and make sure that the house was clean and orderly when she visited. Her Dad would lie down beside her when it was time for the afternoon siesta, cradling her to sleep as he did when Mila was a small child.

Today, Mila is back in our world. Although she still cannot speak, she can very well understand everything around her. She responds to people and events with the appropriate emotions. She laughs at a good joke, smiles at a compliment, blushes at a kiss, sheds a tear at a touching story, becomes irritable when hungry, raises her voice when unattended to, cries when sad, etc. It is easiest, though, to make her smile. Snuggle up to her, praise her, embrace her, and she responds with a broad smile that can melt anyone's heart.

I am convinced that it is the love that the people around Mila have showered upon her that has brought her back into this world. And she has come back into this world loving the only way her brain injury allows her to – with a smile!



"We were always there for her"

A DSWD official who was in touch with Maria Teresa Carlson during the erstwhile beauty queen's last days reveals a portrait of a truly troubled woman

WHEN DELIA PAMANI, CHIEF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CRISIS INTERVENTION UNIT, FIRST HEARD ABOUT MARIA TERESA CARLSON'S SUICIDE ON NOV. 23, SHE TOOK THE NEWS PERSONALLY.

"What if I had called or texted her that week? Would that have stopped her from jumping to her death?"

Pamani first met Carlson on June 19 this year when Lina Guerrero of Malacañang referred the former beauty queen to the DSWD Central office. "Carlson had wanted to see President Arroyo to let her listen to some cassette tapes, but GMA wasn't in."

Carlson looked weak and haggard and they had to pay for her cab, Pamani recalls. "Maria wanted us to help her get custody of her six children who, she said, were being sexually and physically abused by her husband. The six audio tapes reportedly caught the yelling and crying of her children."

Yet when Pamani and director Vilma Cabrera of the National Operations Office listened to the tapes, they

heard nothing but the humming of an aircon unit. "We suggested that Carlson submit to psychiatric evaluation, and she initially agreed, though she would change her mind later. After some counselling, we brought her home to her Greenhills condo where I managed to talk with the security guards. For the past week, they said that Carlson had been restless and had accused them of conniving with her husband in hiding the children in the condo's basement. To appease Carlson, *sinamahan namin siya sa basement* where we inspected all the rooms she had identified as hiding places. *Wala naman*. I told her she was having hallucinations."

Pamani stayed in the Platinum 2000 condominium for two hours and found the scene "very weird. All the doorknobs were tied with cords and connected to each other. Maria said she wanted to wake up if her husband comes in."

COVER...from page 11

Indeed, statistics show that women are predominantly the victims of domestic abuse. The National Census and Statistics Office figures show that in 1999, the DSWD serviced 3,440 women who were victims of maltreatment, physical abuse and battering, while the Philippine National Police figures number 2,413 cases of physical injuries and 588 cases of battering against women. Notes Maza, "Surely there are more women in the same situation who are afraid to come out because this type of violence is generally seen as a private and normal occurrence within intimate relationships."

Battered women, according to the bill's introduction, often find it difficult to complain or leave their abusive spouses for the following reasons: fear for the welfare of their children; economic dependency on their partner; the stigma attached to women who are physically and sexually abused, and the traditional view that battering is normal and men have a right to do such acts.

Advocates of women's rights hope that the Anti-AWIR bill would remedy the serious lack of legislation on the issue of domestic violence. Among its proposed provisions are: higher penalties for domestic abuse than currently provided under the Revised Penal Code for slight and serious physical injuries; a protection order that could remove and exclude the abusive partner from the couple's residence, regardless of who owns that house, either temporarily or permanently; extending the bill's coverage to the wife, former wife, current or former live-in partner and persons with whom one has a dating or sexual relationship; and to include threats to deprive a woman of custody, access to family or household members, or financial support among the acts considered abusive.

HOUGH the proposed law might make the legal system more responsive, women's groups have decried the macho culture that makes domestic violence a family's dirty secret.

Says Ramos of Kalakasan, "Filipinos have this love affair with cultural stereotypes. Men must be strong and superior, while women must be weak and submissive. So how can abused women learn to speak out?"

Sarabia: "Carlson sought help from government, to no avail."



Randy Hormillosa

"Likewise, Filipinos are too sensitive when it comes to privacy. A man's home is his castle. What happens between couples is considered a private matter. Then of course we take pride in our close family ties and lasting marriages, so any crack in a relationship is considered a cause for shame that should not be revealed at any cost."

It had to take Carlson's death to "galvanize people into doing something concrete against domestic violence as a social ill," Ramos adds.

Right now, she notes, "We are swamped with invitations to speak in schools and classrooms and do campus tours as part of our regular programs."

The good intentions may have come too late for Carlson whom, Sarabia describes, had such great plans. "She told me that after she got through therapy, she wanted to be a spokesperson for battered wives. She said she would live on her own and fight for the custody of her children."

Alas, in the end, Maria sought comfort in the words she had written in 1996 as a plea for help from Kalakasan: "*Di ko kayang mabuhay na takot* (I can no longer live in fear)."

It is a choice that, hopefully, no woman after Carlson will have to make. 

For help and information on domestic abuse and violence, call Kalakasan at 924-4945. The group offers phone and face to face counseling, paralegal and medical assistance, and referrals to shelters.

Pamani: "Carlson needed somebody to talk to."

The next day, continues the DSWD official, Director Angelique Somera of the NBI's Violence Against Women and Children unit called up their office to say that Maria had sought their help to rescue her children. "After some psychological and psychiatric evaluation, the NBI said she needed detoxification. We also wanted to shelter her at the Alabang National Center for Women, but she demurred. She said she would stop taking these slimming pills that were reportedly affecting her behavior, and she'd be alright."

Over the next few days, Carlson would text Pamani, inviting her to come over. "Please drop by my place, *kailangan ko ng kausap*," she would say and I would go, *kahit* 3 am. She would show me the arts and crafts that she made—dolls and table décor made of shells and indigenous materials. She obviously needed somebody to listen to her."

The 39-year-old Carlson was also a very loving mother, adds Pamani. "She has eight albums for each of her six children with their umbilical cords, hair and nail clippings, first pictures, etc. She was obviously very proud of them."

To check Carlson's claims about her children being abused, Pamani asked Dir. Cristeta Absolor of DSWD Region I to send social workers to the children's school and interview their teachers. "The teachers said there was nothing to show for their physical abuse, and we concluded that Maria really had some psychological problems."

Admittedly, adds the DSWD official, the social worker might have not been that thorough as she was afraid of being identified. "Natatakot kay (former Governor Rodolfo) Fariñas, who is a very influential man. In fact, a retired DSWD undersecretary warned me about him and his goons, but I always think of it as *trabaho lang*."

After some weeks of intense texting, Carlson suddenly disappeared for about three weeks, says Pamani. "There was no text at all. When we went to her condo, the guards said she wasn't there; *sinundo raw ni* Congressman. Then she texted us again from Laoag, taking back everything she said. 'Nagalit lang ako. He's really a good man and a loving husband. You cannot put down a good man. I love my husband' went her message."

Carlson started texting the DSWD again sometime October, seeking rescue in Laoag. "Ni-reverse psychology na namin. We told her we were on our way, with the NBI, so she texted us back: 'Huwag na; I'm okay na. Don't come to Laoag na.'"

The texting resumed. "We kept counselling and motivating her to undergo psychiatric evaluation, but she didn't want to cooperate," recalls Pamani. "When we insisted, she would go back to her husband. We even tried to get her to contact her family in the US. We told her we'd call her mother and siblings long distance or e-mail them. But every time it came to that, she would keep quiet. She told us her family got mad at her because when they wanted to get her, she chose Fariñas instead."

Last week of October, Pamani recalls, Carlson went back to the DSWD and asked to talk to a lawyer to have her marriage annulled. "We got her a lawyer pro bono. Atty. Tricia Villar of the Child Justice League asked Maria to submit some documents so we could start the case, but she didn't comply immediately. Again, she disappeared and we learned later that she had gone on a tour of China with her family. They had a fight, and she went back to Manila ahead of him. Again, she sought the lawyer, but Atty. Villar would only meet with Maria when she had secured the documents. She set the meeting for Nov. 26 *dahil may lalakarin pa raw siya*. She died Nov. 23."

Her death came as a shock, Pamani says. "Ang saya-saya niya just days before. We had dinner with her on Nov. 13 and for a change, she treated us at Kitaro, her favorite eating place along with McDo for breakfast. She was in high



spirits and even bought presents for her kids. Back in her condo, she asked us to help her choose her wardrobe for her TV interview with Paolo Bediones."

There was no denying that she was deeply troubled, however. "She had these deep scars all over her face," Pamani recalls. "She was very fair so they're not that obvious, but upon closer inspection, you'd see these welts, *parang ginunting-gunting yung mukha niya*. I asked her about it, and she said she used to do it to get back at Fariñas everytime they fought."

Although the CIU handles about 70 cases a day, Pamani admits that they treated Carlson as a special case. "We exerted extraordinary efforts on her case because she needed our help badly. She didn't have anybody else to talk to. She had three landlines but all were cut off because she couldn't pay the bill. She would show us her wallet and she had no money, no ATM card, no credit card, although her ref was fully stocked. Sent by her husband, she would say. So she would offer us drinks or coffee. The guards said they would pool their money and pay for her cab fare because the taxi drivers would come collecting all the time. She was alone in her condo except for Rochelle, a part-time maid who came in at 10 a.m. Maria slept at 1 or 2 a.m. and was a late riser. Having come from Ilocos, Pamani said she and Carlson would text each other in Ilokano as late as 1 a.m. and she'd advise her, "Matulog ka na." Her last text was on Nov. 14, says Pamani. It said, "Watch me on TV" for her Bediones interview.

As she watched the news on Carlson's death on TV the following week, Pamani could only rue her tight schedule the week her text mate died. "I keep wondering, if I had not been too busy to call or text her, would she still be around?"

Pennie Azarcon-Dela Cruz

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera



Poetry

Puwang

Punuan natin ang mga puwang.
Paglapatin natin ang ulap at lupa.
Pagsalpukin natin ang dagat at baybayin.
Magkiskis tayo ng mumunting apoy sa dilim.
Magsuksok tayo ng mga interbal na kaluskos sa katahimikan.
Pagtiyapin natin ang gabi at umaga.
Pagsalubungin natin ang aalis at darating.
Sugpungan natin ang mga puwang
kahit man lamang sa paligid,
kahit man lamang ngayong gabi.
Saka na ang puso sa puso.
Saka na ang ating mga puso.

Danilo R. dela Cruz, Jr.



This Week

Art

Allan Cosio is holding an exhibit of nature-inspired works at Le Soufflé Bistro cum art gallery, 2/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City until Dec. 28.

Unang Pitik, Lily Wuzela's first series of flowers at Le Soufflé at The Fort until Dec. 20.

Duddley Diaz presents his sculptures, drawings and jewelry at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.



Sample a Mardi Gras Christmas at the New World Renaissance Hotel

Scenes We Love, a two-woman exhibit featuring oil paintings of garden scenes by Dr. Sylvia Jacinto and chalk pastel paintings of provincial scenes by Dr. Elizabeth Amelia V. Tianco at Gallery Y of SM Megamall A until Dec. 20.

Warranty Void If Removed: Recent Works, Norman Dreos's latest exhibit representing Philippine urban communities as microcosms similar in processes to a computer's internal system, at the Liongoren Gallery, 111 New York and Stanford Sts., Cubao, QC until Dec. 23.

Music

Rated Apo, a special holiday concert by the Apo Hiking Society combining humor and music at Onstage Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati on Dec. 18 at 9 p.m. Tickets are available at all National Bookstore, Tower Records and Robinsons Dept. Store Ticketworld outlets, Onstage Greenbelt ticketron and at all Don Henrico's outlets.

Listen to the angelic voices of the **Ateneo Boys Choir** with a Christmas repertoire of songs from around the world on Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. On Dec. 21, it's the **Hiraya Men's Choir's** turn to perform popular Yuletide hymns. Free admission.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

The Merry Wives of Manila, Severino Montano's play on the scandalous and irreverent lifestyles of some members of Manila's high society in the 1950s, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman.

The Gift of Christmas, a series of three shows that exhibit the dance mastery of students of the Effie Nañas Ballet Ensemble with the staging of "Nutcracker," Dec. 16, 5 p.m. at Cinema 1, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza; Dec. 23, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Enchanted Kingdom, and Dec. 28 at Glorietta, Ayala Center at 5:30 p.m.

Food

Komiks, a new boutique restaurant at Julio Nakpil St., corner Maria Orosa St., Malate, Manila, offers light savory meals, chocolate desserts and fondues. It also offers the following activities for the holidays: Wednesday Caricature night—group portrait will be done on the spot by its house artist for free if you dine in every Wednesday night; Kenkoy Kris Kringle—get a chance to pick a holiday gift certificate from its holiday stockings when you dine at the restaurant until Dec. 30.

Paskuhan sa Kamayan, a grand Christmas buffet of 50 holiday dishes like *Lechon de leche*, *Marconito*, *Inihaw na Pusit*, *Embotido*, *Sizzling Mangingisda*, *Chicken Gallantina*, *Hamonado*, *Rellenong Bangus*, *Ube Halaya*, *Puto Bumbong* and more available at all Kamayan branches in SM Megamall, Glorietta III, Alabang Town Center, Pasay Road, Edsa, Padre Faura and West Avenue. For inquiries, call 410-2870 or 843-3604.

New World Renaissance Hotel celebrates the holiday season inspired by the grand and colorful New Orleans' Mardi Gras festival. Vibrant Christmas décor welcomes guests upon entering the hotel lobby and each restaurant offers a hearty selection of sumptuous holiday fare on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with lunch and dinner buffets. For details, call 811-6888.

Christmas specials at the Manila Peninsula: From Dec. 16-23 and Dec. 26-30, meals at Old Manila, Mi Piacce and Spices entitle diners to one free bottle of the wine of the month for a group of 10 or more, and a group of 20 will also have a free bottle of the wine of the month plus a gift voucher for a lunch or dinner buffet at Nielsen's. For inquiries, call 887-2888 or 812-3456.

Atbp

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, an epic love story and the fight for truth, justice and the legendary Green Destiny sword set amid the landscapes of ancient China, will be shown tonight at 10 on cable channel AXN with rebroadcasts on Dec. 17 at 2 a.m. and 3 p.m., Dec. 31 at 10 p.m. and on Jan. 1 at 2 a.m.

Party @ dC-wol, CCP's annual December Fiesta featuring dances by renowned folkloric groups with a special Badjao cultural event on Dec. 21 and 22 from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; puppetry and children's theater shows on Dec. 22, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the C-wol platform; a streetdancing event hosted by leading radio stations; a flea market, Christmas pageants, guest appearances by movie and TV celebrities at 10 p.m., and the annual *misa de gallo* from Dec. 16-24 at the Liwasang Ambahan. For inquiries, call 832-1125 loc. 1600-1623.

Likhang Kamay, a Christmas card making contest at the Manila Galleria Suites on all Saturdays of December with the theme *Parol, Ilaw ng Pasko*. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., kids with their moms and dads dining at Raphael Café-Restaurant are invited to play with a blend of colors and paper to craft Christmas cards. The cards will be displayed at the hotel and the best cards will win a gift certificate for an overnight stay in the hotel or special gifts from Robinsons Department Store and Citibank. For inquiries, call 633-7111 ext. 7436.

dOCUMENTO Records, an independent, art-inclined, record label has now officially opened its website. It includes weekly updated news, pictures, articles, mp3s and what-have-yous in the independent community of dOCUMENTO Records. You can visit dOCUMENTO at www.documentagon.com.

Registration is now open for the **4th Deaf Education Week-end Seminar** with the theme "Research as a Tool for Deaf Empowerment" to be held on Jan. 25-26, 2002 at the CAP Development Center, Makati. For details, call 921-8521.

The Nights Before Christmas Bazaar will be held on Dec. 21-23 at the Corinthian Gardens basketball court. For details, call 364-5794, 635-3348 or 635-6535.

X-manila

Canossa Academy of Lipa City, Batangas, High School Batch 1996 will hold its first grand reunion on Dec. 30-31. For details, call Kristine Sendy C. del Rosario at 0917-8342508 or email tintinsendy@yahoo.com.

The **FORGE** (Fraternity Organized for Responsibility to God and Excellence) of the Lyceum of Batangas will have a **general assembly** on Dec. 23, 10 a.m. at Max's Restaurant in Lipa City. All students and alumni members are invited to attend. For inquiries, call Louise Higuat at 896-8241 or (0917) 4109545 in Manila or Dexter Medilla at (043) 778-2935/36 loc. 205 or 0919-6023333 in Batangas.

Navidad: Cavite City Christmas Festival 2001, an annual festival to relive the old Yuletide traditions and customs that is distinctly Caviteño, will be held from Dec. 16-23. Highlights include the lighting of *Parol Na Calle Real* (probably the longest blinking lantern-adorned street in the country), *Parada ng mga Kuneho at Bangenge*, *Comparsa*, *Drum & Lyre Exhibition*, *Cavite City National Christmas Dance Festival*, street party, gift-giving and more. For details, call (046) 431-2429, (046) 431-0519.

Balik Cavite High, the CHS-CNHS alumni reunion at Montano Hall, Cavite City in preparation for the school's centenary in June 2002. Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-12 noon—Classes '50-'59; 7-10 p.m.—Classes '80-'89; Dec. 22, 9 a.m.-12 noon—Classes '60-'69; 4-7 p.m. Classes '90—2001; Dec. 30, 7 p.m.—Mr. & Ms. CNHS 2001, the centenary pageant. For inquiries, call (046) 431-6648 to 49.

The **Cagayan National High School Batch '76** celebrates its silver jubilee with a class reunion on Dec. 29 at the CNHS, Tuguegarao starting at 8 a.m. For inquiries, call Gregorio Amistad at (02) 372-7818, Dr. Luchie Morales (02) 655-7107 and Dr. Raymund Frogozo (02) 931-3008 in Manila. In Tuguegarao City, contact Deogracias Caronan at (078) 844-2487 and Saturnina Gonzaga (078) 846-4053.

KID-Kalikasan Poster-Making Contest, open to children 7-12 years old and residents of the Bicol, Eastern and Central Visayas, or Caraga region. Simply draw, sketch or paint using a standard 1/2-sized illustration board and show how you, your family and community can save our natural resources. Submit your entries to the nearest CBRMP regional office. A maximum of two entries is allowed per participant. The final judging will be held in Manila on Jan. 16, 2002. Cash prizes await lucky winners. For inquiries, call (052) 481-4562 in Legazpi City, (032) 412-6745 in Cebu City, (053) 321-1388 in Tacloban City, (085) 815-0320 in Butuan or email folay@info.com.ph.

The **Scout Royale Brotherhood National Alumni Association** of San Pablo City, Laguna will hold its assembly and alumni membership orientation today at 9 a.m. at ABC Barangay Hall Building, City Hall compound, San Pablo City. The Christmas party will be on Dec. 21 at San Pablo Central Stadium, San Pablo City. For details, call 0919-5506279.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.